

Howell hints at LT takeover

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, is ready to take over London Transport thus preventing the massive fare rises predicted by Mr Kenneth Livingstone, GLC leader, after Thursday's ruling by the Law Lords. "I have no intention of allowing the world's greatest urban transport system to collapse", he said. Back page

European rocket proves itself

The European rocket, Ariane, made a perfect flight from the Guiana Space Centre into space on its fourth and final test launch. Over the Atlantic it successfully put the British-built maritime communications satellite, Marecs A, into orbit. Page 6

Hope amid the snow and gales

Blizzards, flooding and gales continued to cause chaos across Britain, and thousands of families were left without electricity. But forecasters are confident of a more general thaw before the end of the week. Back page

Prince condemns red tape

The Prince of Wales has condemned the amount of money "wasted" on bureaucracy involved in schemes to relieve unemployment. In an interview with *The Director* magazine, he applauds efforts to help those out of work but asks if enough is being done. Back page

Repatriation cash flop

Homeward Bound, the film appeal to raise money to repatriate disenfranchised West Indians, has raised only £500 since its controversial launching a month ago. Now Mr Ashton Gibson the organizer, says his scheme has been misinterpreted. Page 2

Iran democrat out of hiding

The Iranian Government's most hunted political opponent, Mr. Hedayatollah Matine-Daftari, has come out of hiding and arrived in Paris. A leading agency source told *The Times* that he was seeking dialogue with other opposition forces. Page 4

Alexeyeva in America

Miss Liza Alexeyeva, whose freedom from the Soviet Union was secured through a hunger strike by Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian scientist, has been reunited in the United States with her husband by proxy, Mr Alexei Semenov. Page 4

Would-be MPs face SDP panel

The Social Democratic Party today begins interviewing the first of about 1,000 of their members who have applied to become prospective parliamentary candidates. Those chosen will fight in constituencies where the Labour Party will stand down. Page 3

Letter clarified

The Royal Ulster Constabulary chief has attempted to clarify a letter he sent to the civil liberties group, which has been criticized by the minority parties. Page 2

Little cheer

There is little Christmas cheer for Britain's industrialists in the monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry which forecasts continuing output stagnation in UK factories because of a lack of orders. Page 13

Last-gasp win

England's cricketers lost the second one-day international in Jeddah when Vengsakarn hit an unbeaten 88 to give India victory by six wickets with three balls to spare. Page 17

Leader, page 9

Letters: On evolution, from the President of the Royal Society, and others; West Country snow, from Miss Elizabeth Frink, and others. Leading articles: Left v Left; Lifeboat disaster. Features: 6 and 8. Poland: an appeal for more than protest; portrait painting rides the recession; cold comfort for the Government in the social services inquiry. Obituary, page 10. Sir Thomas Ellis, Professor Scott Simpson. Greece: A four-page Special Report looks at how the country is adapting to the rule of a socialist government.

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Polish envoy to US defects

'My country is under a reign of terror'

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Romuald Spasowski, the Polish Ambassador in Washington, was granted political asylum in the United States yesterday after accusing his Government of waging war on the people of Poland. Mr Spasowski, his wife Wanda at his side, read an emotional statement to reporters a few hours after Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, announced on television that President Reagan had agreed to give him asylum and protection. "A week ago a state of war was imposed in Poland, a state of war against my people," Mr Spasowski said. "Under the umbrella of the military, specially trained units began an unprecedented reign of terror. Factories have been stormed when workers defended themselves. Solidarity members have been arrested in their offices and at night at home."

Mr Spasowski, Poland's most senior diplomat and a veteran of more than 30 years in the foreign service, said the week-old military Government's imposition of martial law had spread "the cruel night of darkness over my country". Communications had been cut off to isolate Poland and to confuse the rest of the world, he said. The death penalty had been introduced for Poles not reporting to work and Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity trade union organization had been arrested and kept in detention by force.

Mr Spasowski, his voice faltering as he read his dramatic statement, spoke of what he called the brutality and enormous suffering imposed by the authorities on the Polish people. "Thousands of Poles faced imprisonment in the Soviet camps in the open air without shelter, without enough food, without heating, my brothers and sisters face brute force and are exposed to enormous suffering."

Mr Spasowski said, adding that he made a duty in Washington, said he could no longer have any association with authorities responsible for such brutality and inhumanity. "There are indications that some are being transported to camps in neighbouring countries... this carefully orchestrated and directed crackdown is not an internal Polish issue," Mr Spasowski said, adding that he made a mockery of the Helsinki accords on human rights in Europe. "I cannot be silent... I have decided this the moment: I learned that Lech Walesa, the most beloved leader of Solidarity, was arrested by force," Mr Spasowski said.

"This, what I am doing now, is my expression of solidarity with him. I have decided to stand up openly and to say I will do everything to assist Polish people in their hour of need," the Ambassador declared.

Mr Spasowski, flanked by FBI agents, read his statement from a podium in a conference room at the State Department. He said he had asked the United States Government to give him, his wife, his daughter and son-in-law shelter and political asylum and expressed his thanks to President Reagan and Mr Haig for allowing his family to stay.

Mr Spasowski urged all Americans to think about the Polish people entering a new chapter in their struggle for independence and human dignity. "We will never give up."

The only solution to their troubles is a political solution. Violence and oppression will only aggravate the situation, he said. "The road to peace is the only road," he added. He asked Americans not to be silent, to defend freedom in the traditions of their past, and to show solidarity and support for the Poles.

He urged other Polish diplomats to be true to themselves but to remember to do whatever their consciences dictated to help their people. He ended his nine-minute statement with: "Long live Poland."

Mr Spasowski is the first senior Soviet bloc official to defect since April 1978, when a diplomat at the United Nations, Mr Arcady Shcherchenko, sought asylum on the grounds of repressive conditions in the Soviet Union.

Mr Spasowski has held five overseas posts and was the Polish Ambassador in Washington in the mid-1950s. He returned in 1978. He was also an under-Secretary of State for Poland in the 1970s.

As the martial law regime in Poland entered its second week yesterday, there were further reports of industrial strife between workers and security forces, passive resistance elsewhere, and increasing tension.

The most dramatic incident was a strike demonstration by 1,300 miners at the Ziemowit mine in Katowice who were staying underground after an exit to the colliery had been blown up.

According to Tass, Solidarity militants were holding the miners hostage, after the mine had been sabotaged. The report said that militants had blown up one exit at the mine, where seven miners were killed in clashes with security forces last Wednesday, and were threatening to destroy the other exit if the authorities moved in troops or police.

"As a result... up to 1,300 miners are being held underground," Tass said. "The second exit is mined and political criminals from Solidarity, blackmailing the authorities, are threatening to blow it up if the forces of public order are brought to the mine."

The Polish news agency PAP claimed that 95 per cent of industry was working normally, although reports of similar resistance to the authorities elsewhere in Poland gave a different impression.

Warsaw radio said shipyards in Gdansk, where police and workers fought street battles for two days last week, were closing until after Christmas. Work at a neighbouring shipyard in Gdynia was also suspended until December 23. No reason was given.

Observers in Warsaw suggest that about half the work force turned up for duty on Saturday—a day when work is now obligatory. Solidarity earlier won an agreement for Saturdays to be a day-off.

Warsaw radio said working hours in the factories placed under military control were being laid down according to need.

The radio also announced increased wages for lower paid workers, and other measures to compensate for any rise in the cost of living.

The Church in Poland was also making its voice heard over the weekend in an appeal to avoid bloodshed. Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic primate, said: "We will never give up."

Continued on back page, col 4

BR plans more cheap fares to fill empty trains

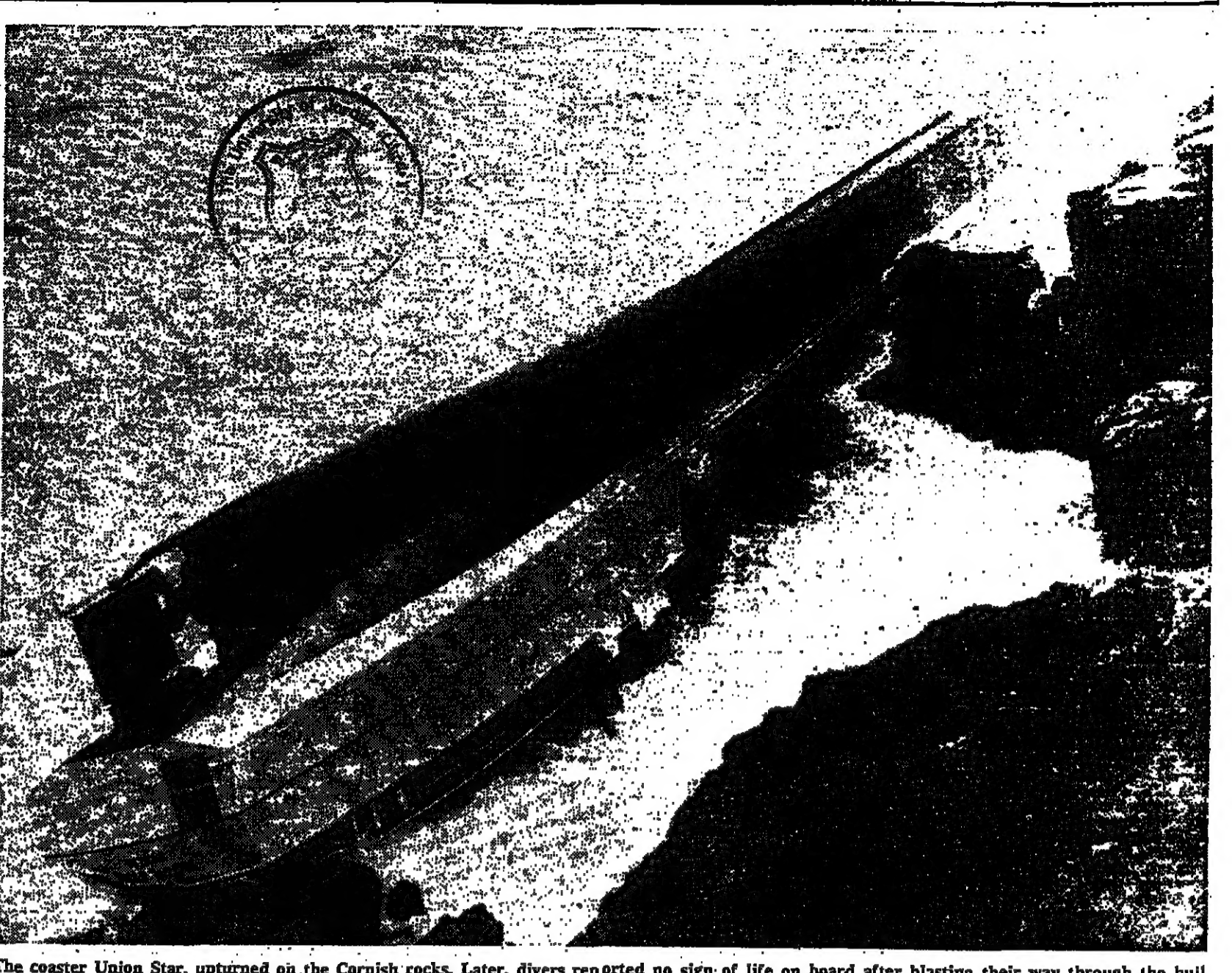
By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

A nationwide off-peak cheap fare is to be introduced by British Rail next year in an attempt to fill increasingly empty trains. It will be about a third less than the normal fare and will be available to all passengers on all routes. The only restriction will be that the new ticket, which has yet to be named, will not be valid on peak-hour trains. There will, therefore, be a nationwide two-tier fare system. British Rail, which plans to introduce the new fare about July, hopes that, with the present discount fares, the scheme will bring passengers flocking back to off-peak trains, many of which are running nearly empty. The three main objectives behind what is regarded as one of the biggest innovations in marketing passenger trains in Britain are: 1. To fill the huge volume of empty off-peak seats, which constitute an unacceptable drain on resources at a time when BR is approaching the Government for investment in electrification. Curtailed timetables and shorter trains, planned for the spring, are seen as the path to a declining railway.

2. To provide a simple alternative to the "fares jungle" for which BR has been much criticized since it started to introduce selective discounts about four years ago. Some routes there are said to be more than twenty different fares on offer.

3. To provide a discount fare for the ordinary traveller who is not a student, a pensioner or disabled, or travelling on a route where coach competition has not forced BR to produce a special "saver" fare.

The two-tier system falls short of the curfew fares introduced in Sweden in the late 1970s, which had a dramatic effect on rail traffic there, and which BR has often been urged to emulate. Sweden approximately halved fares, and traffic rose by nearly half so that no rise in subsidy was at first required. However, because the cheap fares are available at all times except weekends, they have increased traffic on full weekday trains and Swedish Rail, a heavy programme of capital investment to cater for the extra traffic.



The coaster Union Star, upturned on the Cornish rocks. Later, divers reported no sign of life on board after blasting their way through the hull.

Sixteen die in lifeboat's rescue attempt

From Craig Seton, in Mousehole, Cornwall

Eight lifeboatmen and eight of the people they went to rescue on a stricken coaster died yesterday in hurricane-force winds and mountainous waves off the Cornish coast. The Penlee lifeboat, launched from the village of Mousehole, braved 40ft waves to pluck four people from the sea. The Union Star, a coaster, was thrown aboard and overturned. A mother and two teenage girls travelling with their stepfather captain.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute has started an urgent inquiry into the disaster. The tiny fishing community in Mousehole, where all the men of the Penlee lifeboat lived, was stunned by the loss of relatives and friends as questions began to be asked about what went so tragically wrong. The darkness of the rugged Cornish cliffs.

The disaster had started just after 5 pm on Saturday and ended about four hours later with the loss of the two vessels. The lifeboat Solomon Browne mysteriously smashed to pieces and the coaster Union Star thrown aboard and overturned against rocks off Land's End. The coaster had been on its maiden voyage.

Vital evidence about what happened would lie with the wreckage of the Dutch tug, the Noord Holland, based at

Newlyn, which offered to tow the coaster when it first got into difficulties after its engines failed but which in fact never became involved in the rescue operation. The coaster initially turned down the salvage contract offered by the tug; the owners of the coaster subsequently agreed a contract but by the time the tug reached the scene, it was too late to help.

It became clear that the Union Star started drifting towards the rocks the Solomon Browne got alongside at least once and took off four people including the captain's wife. The lifeboat radioed that it was returning for more survivors but nothing more was heard.

After midnight the first wreckage of the Solomon Browne was washed up on beaches quite close to Mousehole. Four bodies were found: three lifeboatmen, including a 55-year-old coxswain and Mrs Dawn Morton, the wife of Captain Harry Morton, the master of the 1,400-ton Union Star.

According to information supplied by coastguards who denied a report that it had log of a rescue helicopter from

RAF Culdrose, the Union Star, carrying fertilizer from Dublin, never sent out a Mayday call or flares but asked for assistance at about 5 pm, on Saturday. According to Michael Sutherland, the deputy launching authority for the Penlee lifeboat who is also a Trinity House pilot, between 6 pm and 6.30 pm the captains of the tug and coaster were in conversation over their radio about the question of assistance for the Union Star.

Monitoring parts of the conversation on his radio, Mr Sutherland said the tug's captain offered to go to the coaster's assistance immediately on an open Lloyd's agreement and was heard telling the captain of the Union Star that if there had to be a contract the owners of the two vessels would have to get in touch with each other and that would "take time".

Mr Sutherland said: "The tragedy could have been avoided if the tug had been able to tow her. Either weather conditions or legal conditions stopped her doing so. We do not know."

Union Transport, the owner of the coaster, last night denied a report that it had told Captain Morton, to refuse

an offer of assistance from the Noord Holland.

A spokesman for the company said the first it knew of the ship's difficulties was a telephone call from the Falmouth coastguard to its assistant fleet superintendent at 6.50 pm on Saturday. Captain Morton was instructed to accept a tow when contact was made with him at 7 pm and a salvage contract was signed with the tug company, Weissmuller, 30 minutes later.

"All we can think of is that the tug may have heard of the breakdown earlier on and rang the master, who at that time did not think it was anything serious," the spokesman added. But that was "pure conjecture", he said.

"The only time we spoke to him was at 7 pm to ask him how serious the trouble was."

The tug owners claimed that Captain Morton initially turned down the offer of a tow from the tug because he did not think it was needed. The tug was about 10 miles away at the time.

Mr Tony van der Merwe, project manager of the Dutch tug firm, said: "Later on the captain of the Union Star notified that he was coming closer to the shore and moving into danger. In the meantime the tug skipper had phoned me

and I contacted the owners in London and they recognized at the end that the vessel did need a tug. Unfortunately that decision was taken too late."

According to RNLI officials the Solomon Browne was in first class condition. She had been launched 238 times in emergencies and had saved 91 lives.

The Director of the RNLI Rear Admiral Victor Gribben, said last night: "Obviously no man becomes a lifeboatman for the hell of it and every single lifeboatman in this country knows that one day the chips may be down and this is going to happen. Sometimes the elements win. The sea is very, cruel and utterly relentless."

"The boat was smashed a smithereens and I have never seen a big boat like that in so many pieces—some of them were no bigger than an ash tray."

After messages of condolence had been received from the Queen and Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Mrs Thatcher, an appeal fund for the bereaved families was immediately set up.

There are 12 orphans and five widows from the lifeboat disaster. The lifeboat, the village and the victims, page 3. Leading article, page 9

Israel scraps pact with US after bitter Begin tirade

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Dec 20

After one of the most bitter verbal exchanges between Israel and the United States on record, the Israeli Cabinet decided today to scrap the agreement on strategic cooperation with America, which was signed in Washington three weeks ago.

The cancellation, and the ferocity of the insults aimed against the Americans by Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, have brought relations between the two allies to their lowest point.

Mr Begin's anger was prompted by the United States decision to "suspend" the strategic pact as a reprisal for Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. "You are trying to make Israel a hostage to the cancellation of the agreement," he told Mr Samuel Lewis, the American Ambassador. "I consider your announcement of the suspension of the discussion on the memorandum of understanding a cancellation. No sword of Damocles will hang over our heads."

"We said the people of Israel had survived for many thousands of years without the agreement and would continue to survive without it for several thousand more."

His tirade was delivered at his Jerusalem home shortly before the Cabinet meeting, which endorsed the remarks. Israel's Chief of Staff, the Chief of Military Intelligence and the Navy and Air Force commanders also attended the cabinet deliberations.

According to Mr Arieh Naor, the Cabinet Secretary, the Prime Minister told Mr Lewis: "You have more rights to speak to us regarding civilian loss of life. We read the history of World War Two and we know what happened to civilians when you took action against the enemy. We also read the history of the Vietnam war and your concept of body counts."

Mr Begin was referring to

fighting and suffering. You will not frighten us with punishment. He who threatens us will find our ears deaf."

Mr Begin, who is convalescing from a broken hip, accused the Reagan Administration of antisemitism in its decision last week to withdraw promises to buy large quantities of Israeli weaponry.

He compared the American approach with that of General Evelyn Barker, the British GOC Palestine, who resided in the house where the Israeli Prime Minister now lives. "When we fought him you called us terrorists and we continued to fight," Mr Begin said with reference to his own leadership of the Irgun terror group.

"After we attacked his headquarters in the condemned King David buildings, Barker said this race will be affected only when we hit it in its pocket-books" and he ordered his British soldiers not to any longer patronize any Jewish-owned café. Hitting us in the pocket-book was Barker's philosophy."

"There are those who say we must rescind the Golan law that was passed in the Knesset (Parliament). To rescind is a concept of the days of the inquisition. Our forefathers were burnt at the stake and did not rescind their faith. We do not have to burn at the stake. We praise God, we have enough strength to defend our independence and our rights."

He added: "Kindly inform the Secretary of State that the Golan Heights law will remain in force. There is no power in the world that will bring about its repeal."

Mr Begin said his Government would never submit to American pressure to accept Ezer's demand that the 100,000 East Jerusalem Arabs be allowed to vote in elections for the proposed Palestinian autonomy council.

Mr Naor announcing the Cabinet decision.

earlier American sanctions after the Israeli raid on Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) headquarters in Beirut in which many Arab civilians were killed and wounded.

The strength of the language used against Israel's main supplier of weapons and finance has surprised even members of Mr Begin's party, but it is understood accurately to reflect the bitterness felt against America inside the Cabinet. Ministers looked grim after this morning's meeting and the American envoy would say nothing.

Mr Begin told Mr Lewis that the Americans were still judging themselves that they were punishing Israel with their latest sanctions. "What kind of talk is this of punishing Israel? Are we a vassal state of yours? Are we a banana republic? Are we 14-year-olds that if we do not behave we get our wrists slapped?"

"I will tell you who comprises this Cabinet. It is comprised of men whose lives were marked by resistance,

The exception that could prove to be your rule.

Quality in an age of change.

Cash snub for £1m appeal to send W Indians home

By Nicholas Timmins

Homeward Bound, the fund to repatriate West Indians to the Caribbean, which has so outraged many black leaders, seems to be bound nowhere.

The fund was launched in a blaze of publicity a month ago by Mr Ashton Gibson, the director general of Westindian Concern Ltd, but he says that only about £500 has so far come in.

Sponsors and patrons of Westindian Concern and Caribbean House, a charity also run by Mr Gibson, have in the main kept their distance from the proposal, no register has been kept of the applicants attracted by the publicity, nor have any serious talks apparently been held with Caribbean governments.

Mr Gibson maintains that there is no need for that. The whole scheme, he says, has been misrepresented and misquoted. The intention, he says, was to raise money to send 40 or 50 families a year from the Hackney area, in London, where he works, back to the Caribbean. The idea was never to run any sort of national programme. "That would cost billions".

Mr Gibson's claims that most black people want to leave Britain have led to attacks from almost all sections of the black community, including former colleagues such as Mr Rene Webb, director of the Melting Pot in Brixton, black community workers, activists such as Mr Marcus Brown of the Race Today Collective, and Hackney Council for Racial Equality, of which Mr Gibson is a former executive member, and which has demanded that he withdraw the scheme.



Mr Ashton Gibson: "I have no record of dishonesty".

Mr Gibson is no stranger to controversy. Between 1955 and 1970, after coming to Brixton from Barbados, he was convicted of a series of charges, including dishonestly obtaining money from priests. The money, he insisted, was given to charities for work that he believed the church should be doing.

There were repeated spells in mental hospital under court orders.

Mr Gibson says that he was "criminalized" by the system. Despite the convictions, he maintains, "I have got no record of dishonesty. In all my trials and all the times I have been before the court, there was never any question of personal gain".

In 1971, while on day release from mental hospital, he started the work that led to the foundation of the Melting Pot in Brixton, now a well-respected community

project. In its early days it had a stormy history, as it squatted in houses to provide much needed support for teenagers in trouble and at odds with their families.

There was friction with local residents, the council, the police and the foundation's trustees, who eventually voted Mr Gibson down over whether the Melting Pot should take money from Lambeth Council to run hostels.

Mr Gibson, who wanted to do family casework rather than run hostels, wanted to refuse the money. When he lost he resigned and set up Westindian Concern in Hackney.

The organization is a limited liability company, where only shareholders can vote on policy. Mr Gibson says he controls enough shares to avoid being outvoted.

Since 1975 Westindian Concern has been reconciling West Indian teachers with their parents and running educational courses for teachers, social workers and others.

Hackney council has supported the work. This year it is providing £20,000 to have 10 West Indian children fostered by West Indian families rather than taken into care at a cost of £15,000 a year each. The council seems well pleased with the centre's work, and both West Indian Concern and Caribbean House, have attracted increasing sums of public money.

The company's accounts, largely chaotic up to 1978, although Mr Gibson says he trained as an accountant, are now looked after by an efficient financial administrator, appointed as part of an £80,000 programme financed by the Manpower Services Commission, to undertake research into the attitudes of West Indian chiefs and teachers.

Hackney has provided grants of £10,000 and £12,000, has insisted on better accounting, and is considering a £60,000 scheme for job creation and an intermediate treatment centre, to be funded jointly with the Manpower Services Commission and the Inner London Education Authority.

Lord Longford, patron of Caribbean House, who has been in court as a character witness for Mr Gibson, describes him as a man of remarkable vision.

Others see him somewhat differently. Mr Gibson has recently acquired titles of "baronet" and "doctor". He says Bishop Arthur

Maye ordained him into the Tabernacle Christian Church. The Church is not a member of either the British nor Afro-West Indian Council of Churches, of which Mr Gibson was secretary for a controversial year in 1979.

Bishop Malaki Ramsay, chairman of the Afro-West Indian Council of Churches, said in his view Bishop Maye "has no authority to ordain anybody. I do not know who even made him a bishop".

He said that when Mr Gibson was secretary, he issued a report on black community projects. The Afro-West Indian Council of Churches was supposedly setting up "I had phone calls from all over asking about a programme that we were not carrying out".

Mr Gibson's doctrine is in social psychology from the Caribbean Community Ministerial Academy.

Another who is dubious of Mr Gibson's credentials is a black spokesman in Hackney, Wilfred Wood, an honorary canon of Southwark Cathedral. He is furious that Mr Gibson's remarks "are encouraging a climate of opinion where instead of buckling down to the task of creating a multi-racial society people can talk about getting rid of black people and not having to bother".

He says the press has taken up Mr Gibson as black spokesman, without looking at what he is supposed to be leading.

Canon Wood says that in 1971, when Mr Gibson was setting up the Melting Pot, "he pestered me to endorse him in community work, which I refused to do. He still put my name on a letterhead without permission. I got him to take it off pretty smartly".

Mr Jeff Crawford, for seven years secretary of the West Indian Standing Conference and now a senior race relations adviser in Hackney, says the same thing happened five years ago. He said he was approached to support Caribbean House and refused, but his name still went on the letterhead. "It was some months before it was taken off". During that period, he says, he was telephoned about bad debts.

Mr Gibson denounced the two claims as lies. He said he clearly had the impression that Canon Wood had agreed to be a trustee and that Mr Crawford had agreed to be involved.

Despite substantial public support for his organizations, Mr Gibson insists: "I want nothing from the system. I have withdrawn from mainstream politics."

RUC chief defends letter sent to Unionists

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Jack Hermon, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, yesterday attempted to clarify parts of a letter he wrote which the Official Unionist Party claimed was support for civilian intelligence gathering organization.

He was replying to criticism from spokesmen for Northern Ireland's minority parties, including a call for his resignation. Excerpts from the letter to the Official Unionist Party, published yesterday, had been taken out of context.

The spokesman added that the chief constable had not expected the letter to be published, nor had he been informed that it was being released.

In it Mr Hermon said the police were happy to encourage the gathering of all useful information, and "will cooperate with any scheme of informal and defensive nature which works within the law". It went on: "The question of financial assistance is best left until local arrangements are made and requirements are identified, when this headquarters will be prepared to support agreed request for equipment".

Plans for the intelligence gathering scheme were announced after the Reverend Robert Bradford, MP, was murdered in November, and it is understood that the equipment sought by the Official Unionist Party was for direct lines to police stations.

In his statement Mr Hermon said he had agreed with some of the suggestions made by the Official Unionist Party, but added his view that the law-abiding community could help in the prevention of terrorism.

The RUC said it was the kind of letter that could have been written to anybody, and any question of financial assistance was a matter for the Government, not the force.

A soldier aged 22 was in a satisfactory condition at Almsgrange Hospital, Londonderry, last night after being seriously injured in an explosion while doing repair work at Castle Gate.

Several stores risked prosecution yesterday by opening to Christmas shoppers. The William Morrison supermarket chain, based in Bradford opened its stores in the big cities. "We have really been badly hit by the heavy curfew and thought we would try to make up for it today," the company said.

Mr Ray Brown the manager of the Woolworth's store in High Street, Slough, Berkshire, ignored an instruction from his head office not to open.

All last week the store displayed posters saying it would open Sunday. The management changed their minds at the last minute, but a large crowd gathered outside.

SHOPS DEFY SUNDAY LAW

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Left likely to retain TGWU leadership

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) is set to retain the left-wing leadership that voted for Mr Wedgwood Benn, after a general election.

At present only one communist, Mr Eric Recknitz, a lorry driver from the commercial transport group, is returned from the trade side.

The executive, which meets once a quarter for a week, is responsible for the policy direction of the union between biennial delegate meetings, the next of which is not due until next summer, 1983. At its last meeting two weeks ago, the executive authorized a new initiative to seek the TUC's withdrawal from all tripartite machinery with the Government and the Confederation of British Industry.

It also set up a special investigation, headed by Mr Mostyn Evans, the union's general secretary, into the method of the union's choice for the Labour Party leader and deputy leader under the new electoral college system.

Elsewhere Mr Walter Greenfield, a Hull dockworker, a leading campaigner for Benetton, was elected as one of the TUC General Council, has been returned from the Humberside region. Results from the South, West and Ireland show no change in the political composition.

Regional ballot votes held under TGWU rules have yet to be counted. The union's internal process in the Midlands, North-west, North, Scotland and Yorkshire, but on the trend so far shown union leaders are confident of a consistent line carrying over.

The 25-strong territorial group on the executive (which is one smaller this year because of the sharp drop in qualifying membership in the traditionally moderate West region) dominates the executive numerically, but other militants are likely to be returned next month.

More changes are turning away from red meat towards cheaper substitutes such as poultry. They also tend to buy processed foods, which although often more expensive in the long run, are cheaper than large immediate cash outlay.

Abattoir owners say they cannot get the quantity and quality of stock they want at a price they can afford. In the first 10 months of this year, cattle slaughtering was down by 5.6 per cent and sheep by 12 per cent, but pig killings were slightly up.

Mr Cattell suggests that the way out of the difficulties is to shut down some of Britain's 1,000 or more abattoirs and replace them with about 100 comprehensive meat processing plants.

His idea has the support of supermarkets and multiple chains like Debenhams, but is fiercely opposed by independent wholesalers and the hundreds of local butchers' shops which depend on them for supplies.

Such a scheme, it is said, would create regional monopolies, force up costs because animals would have to be transported farther and "weaken farmers' bargaining position. The freedom of the weekly market would be replaced by bulk purchasing, controlled and manipulated by a handful of large companies."

As for the consumer, there are fears that the younger generation may already be losing the taste for real beef.

But a Dewhurst executive has challenged the finding of a recent market research study that young housewives are reluctant to go into butchers' shops for fear of betraying their ignorance of the difference between a pork chop and a top roast.

Mr Chlin Callumera, Dewhurst's managing director, said earlier this month that some housewives appeared not to mind what they ate, as long as it was easy to prepare, tasty and not too expensive, but others felt the least they could do was to feed their families adequately and do so effectively by buying meat.

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Brown beef may be joint of the future

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Brown beef, lamb and pork, vacuum-wrapped in thick plastic, may replace the traditional red meat bought from the butcher as the Sunday dinner of the future.

The executive, which meets once a quarter for a week, is responsible for the policy direction of the union between biennial delegate meetings, the next of which is not due until next summer, 1983. At its last meeting two weeks ago, the executive authorized a new initiative to seek the TUC's withdrawal from all tripartite machinery with the Government and the Confederation of British Industry.

It also set up a special investigation, headed by Mr Mostyn Evans, the union's general secretary, into the method of the union's choice for the Labour Party leader and deputy leader under the new electoral college system.

Elsewhere Mr Walter Greenfield, a Hull dockworker, a leading campaigner for Benetton, was elected as one of the TUC General Council, has been returned from the Humberside region. Results from the South, West and Ireland show no change in the political composition.

Regional ballot votes held under TGWU rules have yet to be counted. The union's internal process in the Midlands, North-west, North, Scotland and Yorkshire, but on the trend so far shown union leaders are confident of a consistent line carrying over.

The 25-strong territorial group on the executive (which is one smaller this year because of the sharp drop in qualifying membership in the traditionally moderate West region) dominates the executive numerically, but other militants are likely to be returned next month.

More changes are turning away from red meat towards cheaper substitutes such as poultry. They also tend to buy processed foods, which although often more expensive in the long run, are cheaper than large immediate cash outlay.

Abattoir owners say they cannot get the quantity and quality of stock they want at a price they can afford. In the first 10 months of this year, cattle slaughtering was down by 5.6 per cent and sheep by 12 per cent, but pig killings were slightly up.

Mr Cattell suggests that the way out of the difficulties is to shut down some of Britain's 1,000 or more abattoirs and replace them with about 100 comprehensive meat processing plants.

His idea has the support of supermarkets and multiple chains like Debenhams, but is fiercely opposed by independent wholesalers and the hundreds of local butchers' shops which depend on them for supplies.

Such a scheme, it is said, would create regional monopolies, force up costs because animals would have to be transported farther and "weaken farmers' bargaining position. The freedom of the weekly market would be replaced by bulk purchasing, controlled and manipulated by a handful of large companies."

As for the consumer, there are fears that the younger generation may already be losing the taste for real beef.

But a Dewhurst executive has challenged the finding of a recent market research study that young housewives are reluctant to go into butchers' shops for fear of betraying their ignorance of the difference between a pork chop and a top roast.

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Science report Microwave satellite as weather detector

By the Staff of "Nature"

As all television watchers know, weather forecasters use satellite pictures to monitor the progress of fronts heralding a change in weather. But the fronts that are not closely associated with clouds, such as the cold fronts, have been a problem for forecasters.

However, measurements taken by instruments on Seasat, a NASA satellite designed to monitor the oceans, have shown that cloudless fronts over the ocean can be detected by a type of microwave radar.

Unlike visible light and infrared, microwaves are not hindered by clouds, so they provide a useful means of detecting fronts. In the atmosphere, microwaves are scattered by water vapour and rain. They can also be used to measure the water vapour content of the atmosphere above the oceans, as fronts are created having blocks of cold and hot air meet, and as the water vapour content of air depends on its temperature, measurements of water vapour content in the atmosphere should provide an alternative way of detecting fronts.

An instrument on board Seasat, the scanning multichannel microwave radiometer (SMMR), measured the total water vapour content of columns of the atmosphere 600km wide. Three scientists, Dr P. K. Taylor from the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, Godalming, Dr K. B. Katsaros from the University of Washington and Dr R. G. Liles from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, have recently compared the Seasat data with measurements taken from the Earth at the same time during the Joint Air-Sea Interaction (JASIN) experiment. They compared Seasat's data with data from the North Atlantic taken during three months in 1978.

In most cases, the scientists found a good agreement between both sets of data. When they compared Seasat's water vapour data with satellite pictures showing clouds they also found that the greatest changes in water vapour occurred where cloud patterns indicated the presence of a front. They also believe that the Seasat measurements indicated the presence of widespread areas of heavy rain.

Seasat, which was designed to explore the usefulness of microwaves for many types of ocean and atmospheric monitoring, has been in orbit since 1978. Nevertheless, the data that has come out of that short operating period indicate that microwaves measurements could add substantially to the knowledge available to meteorologists who at present lack detailed information on the temperature and water vapour profile of the atmosphere.

Ocean and atmospheric scientists must be helped that Seasat's results will persuade NASA to fund further, similar satellites.

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Chancery Division

Uncertain publication supports tax-avoidance plan

Inland Revenue Commissioners v The Trustees of Sir John Aird's Testament

Before Mr Justice Nourse [Judgment delivered December 16]

The "Newspaper-Franco" scheme that was widely used in 1975 and 1976 to avoid payment of capital transfer tax on capital being taken out of discretionary trusts and transferred to beneficiaries absolutely, achieved its object.

The scheme succeeded in coming within the loophole for avoidance provisions of paragraph 6 (7) of schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1975 that exempted from charge beneficiaries of discretionary trusts who on surviving another person specified period became entitled to interests in possession as from the other person's death.

His Lordship so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by the Crown from a determination of the special commissioners quashing a notice of determination made on the trustees of Sir John Aird's testament in 1975 of £140,964 in favour of the settlor's son.

Section 105 of the Finance Act 1975 repealed paragraph 6 (7) and enacted new provisions to deal with survivorship clauses.

Mr John Knox, QC, and Mr Michael Hart for the Crown; Mr Edward Rogers, QC, and Mr Robert Walker for the trustees.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE, in a reserved judgment, said that the Crown claimed that a device used in 1975-76 in relation to settled property held on discretionary trusts and sometimes known as the "newspaper-Franco" scheme did not succeed in avoiding a charge of tax.

The Finance Act 1975, which abolished estate duty and replaced it with capital transfer tax, made important distinctions in the application of the tax to settled property depending on whether there was or was not subsisting interest in possession in the property.

The Act contained no definition of "interest in possession" and the question which most perplexed Lord Wilberforce in the early years of the new tax was to determine what was to be taken into account in the case of a person who, on surviving another person for a specified period, became entitled to an interest in possession from the other person's death.

It soon became clear to those who advised on these matters that advantage might be taken of paragraph 6 (7) so as to avoid payment of tax altogether. At that appeared to be necessary in the normal case of property held on discretionary trusts with an overriding power of appointment vested in the trustees for an interest in possession to be contingent on the death of the settlor.

Paragraph 6 (2) of schedule 5, where a person "becomes entitled to an interest in possession in property at a time when no such interest subsists in the property, a capital distribution shall be treated as being made out of the property". Paragraph 6 (4) imposed a charge on capital distributions.

Paragraph 6 (7) was the provision on which the case depended and provided that where a person "becomes entitled to an interest in possession from the death of another person, the interest shall be treated as being made out of the property".

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Silent night protest by choristers

The choir of St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major, Mid Glamorgan, walked out after a dispute with the vicar, the Rev Dennis Ewan. All 20 choristers quit their stalls in support of their organist, Mr. Howell Evans, dismissed by the vicar after he, and his wife Susan, were married in a register office. Both were members of the church choir.

Now the vicar is recruiting Brownies to sing the carols at the midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve.

There was no reason why the choir should have given up like that, the Rev Ewan said yesterday. "There were very good reasons why I had dismissed the services of Mr. Evans. But I cannot discuss people's personal lives."

Mr. Evans, an engineer, was in Japan yesterday, where he intends to work. His wife, Susan, who will join him in the New Year, said: "I don't go to church any more."

End to divorce ban forecast

Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, yesterday forecast the possible end of the ban on divorce in the Irish Republic's legal system. But he said that the introduction of divorce traditionally opposed by the Irish Constitution in line with Catholic Church beliefs, could have a bad effect on society.

The cardinal, in a radio interview, refused to speculate on his church's probable attitude towards a referendum on divorce that has been proposed by some politicians in Dublin; but he conceded that public opinion was swinging towards a change, particularly among the young.

Export ban on Indian dressings

The Indian Government has banned two manufacturers from exporting first-aid dressings after tests in Britain showed that they were contaminated, a senior official in New Delhi said yesterday.

Mr. Abid Hussain, the Commerce Secretary, said that two consignments of dressings due for shipment had been seized and sent for investigation. He said the makers were based in Calcutta.

Man who spied for Czechs dies

A former British spy, Nicolas Prager, who was left out in the cold, has died suddenly at the age of 53. His relatives blame the treason he committed from the British and West German governments after his release from prison.

A former RAF sergeant, Mr. Prager was arrested in 1971 and jailed for 12 years for giving secrets to the Czechs about the radar devices used by Britain's V-bombers. He served six years.

Inquiry into case of SAS coma man

The Harford and Worcester Area Health Authority is expected to announce today that it is setting up a team of three medical experts to investigate the case of Mr. David Woodhouse, aged 28, a part-time SAS soldier, who was left in a coma for seven months after a mishap during a routine operation.

Previous attempts by the authority to investigate the case of Mr. Woodhouse, the father of four young children, failed because the Medical Defence Union, a doctors' insurance group, refused to allow its members to cooperate.

Regent Street crater

A crater 50ft deep and 10ft wide appeared in Regent Street in London's West End when a manhole cover collapsed on Friday night. Westminster City Council said last night it would raise eight million to repair the road and pavement.

Man, 81, robbed

Mr. Wilfred Cocking, aged 81, said yesterday that he picked up an axe and tried to fight off two thieves who threatened him with a red-hot screwdriver at his home in St. Newlyn East, near Newquay, Cornwall. He refused to say where his savings were but they eventually fled with £60.

Chief whip reselected

Mr. Michael Cocks, the Labour Chief Whip, was reselected for his seat in Bristol South, yesterday, beating Mr. Andrew May, a local councillor, and Mr. Trevor Morgan, a party worker.

Gift of a lifetime

Mr. John Russell, aged 51, a garage proprietor from Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire, was given a new heart by surgeons at Payworth Hospital, near bridge, yesterday in a five-and-a-half-hour operation. He was making good progress last night.

Hunt for girl's killer

A murder hunt began yesterday after the body of Janet Chestnam, aged 17, was found half-naked in an alleyway at Rainhill, Merseyside.

Drink-drive purge

Seventy-nine drivers have been arrested on Sussex roads so far this month in a pre-Christmas drink-driving purge.

The Penlee lifeboat disaster, its place in history and its impact on a Cornwall village



Comfort for a villager—and the cox of the Lizard lifeboat Peter Mitchell who searched all night in rough seas.

A village mourns its dead after a night of sudden savagery

By Craig Seton

At lunchtime yesterday Mr. Reginald Smith, aged 80, should have been playing cards with Mr. Trevelyan Richards in the Ship Inn at Mousehole.

Instead he stood quietly on the quay watching the sea, the swift savagery of the night before gone, mourning the loss of his card partner, Charlie Greenough, the landlord of the cosy fishermen's inn and six other village men.

Mousehole had never experienced a tragedy like the loss of eight of its men and eight others from a stricken coaster that they had tried to save from mountainous seas.

All day small groups huddled against the wind along the semi-circular harbour of this summertime holiday village, as helicopters scoured Mounts Bay, now quietening under heavy skies, for the bodies of the 16 dead.

In one night 12 village children had become fatherless and five wives were now widows.

Occasionally neighbours, passing in the streets, would pause in grief at the memory of a lost relative or friend. A former second coxswain of the Penlee lifeboat, which was crushed to pieces in 50ft waves the night before, clutched his arm and tears came into his eyes when he said: "I lost a lot of friends last night. It was a hell of a bloody night. It was out of this world."

Mrs. Jacqueline Brockman, widow of Nigel Brockman, aged 43, has stayed up all night knowing the worst, but yesterday she stood on the front at Mousehole, her blue headscarf flapping in the wind, watching the waves rolling in as news came in that six bodies had been found.

Mr. Brockman, a fish salesman, also leaves three sons, his parents and a sister in Mousehole. Neil, one of his sons, watched from the quay yesterday wondering what might have been.

He too had turned up at Penlee lifeboat station with his father and volunteered with him when he broke down the rescue of the Union Star. But Trevelyan Richards, the coxswain, had more than enough men to crew the Solomon Browne and told Neil not to go because he did not want to risk two members of one family.

The mother, sister, and brother of Kevin Smith, aged only 23, were also in mourning. He was at home for Christmas.

on leave from the Merchant Navy and had not hesitated to go out with the lifeboat.

The villagers spoke of Mr. James Madron, who was at Stephen, aged 35, was also lost went out early yesterday along Lamorna Cove and found his son's hat washed ashore.

Villagers spoke of their amazement that the Solomon Browne had even been launched, so heavy was the sea and so fierce the onshore wind.

The 1,500 people of Mousehole were proud of their lifeboatmen and all the people of the village who helped to launch and maintain it and raise money to keep it going.

The men who lost their lives came from all walks of life. There were fishermen, a publican, a Post Office engineer, a young merchant seaman and a fish salesman.

Hundreds of villagers had stayed up all night waiting in the vain hope that the Solomon Browne's lights would be seen coming round the bay from Land's End. One young woman said: "Somehow we always expected it to come back."

Mrs. Enid Richards, who has lived in Mousehole for 26 years, described how people were aware before first light that the lifeboat was lost. By nine o'clock yesterday morning villagers had crammed into the small local church for a memorial service.

Mr. Mike Reynolds, who works as a satellite radio station in Cornwall and acted as winchman for the Solomon Browne on Saturday night, said: "The coxswain was really calm and collected as they went out. They were just doing their job."

Leading article, page 9

Neil Brockman: Volunteer who was turned away.

6.12 pm: Union Star reports the lifeboat has broken down eight miles east of Wolf Rock.

6.15: Sea King helicopter on stand-by at Culdrose air base.

6.21: Penlee lifeboat alerted.

7.50: Tug Nord Holland standing one mile off coast, unable to get closer.

7.57: Sea King takes off from Culdrose.

7.52: Sea King arrives at Union Star, two miles off.

Reports unable to lift off eight people because of atrocious conditions.

8.12: Penlee lifeboat launched.

8.22: Lifeboat radios four survivors on board.

9.20: Lifeboat alongside as Union Star drifts towards rocks. Hoard Holland unable to get closer and anchored offshore.

9.26: Sea King, unable to help, on its way back to base.

9.30: Lifeboat last seen by tug.

9.36: Union Star reported aground.

10.50: Worried coastguards alert other lifeboats.

00.56: Lifeboat wreckage found at Lamorna Cove.

The dead were:

Trevelyan Richards, aged 56, a bachelor, coxswain.

Stephen Madron, aged 33, the mechanic, married.

Nigel Brockman, aged 43, assistant mechanic, married.

Barry Torrie, aged 35, married with two children.

Gary Wallis, aged 23, a single man.

John Elwell, aged 41, who had two children.

Charles Greenough, aged 46, who had two daughters.

Henry Morton, aged 33, of Foxglove Close, Witham, Essex, captain of the Union Star.

Mrs. Dawn Morton, aged 34, the captain's wife.

Sharon Brown, aged 15, the captain's daughter.

Deana Brown, aged 14, the captain's daughter.

James Whitaker, aged 34, of Barker Place, Queenborough, Kent, the ship's mate.

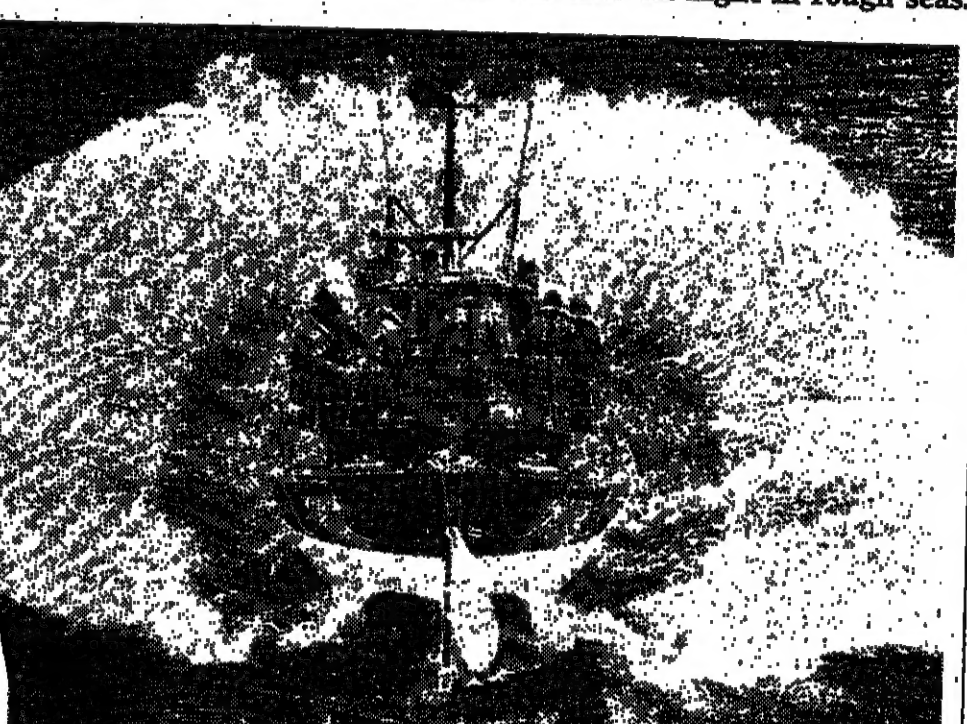
George Sedgewick, aged 44, of Rochester Avenue, Hull, crewman.

M. Lopez, aged 21, from the Cape Verde Islands.

A. Verissimo, aged 24, also from the Cape Verde Islands.



Pen lifeboat at an October launching (above) and its wrecked remains (below) stacked up at Lamorna cove like a handful of driftwood.



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Safety check revealed no fault

The Penlee lifeboat, the modern Thames-class 50-footer stationed at Lelant, and an older 52-foot Barnett boat equipped with a self-inflating bag, capsized in a Scottish storm in November, 1979, when going to the assistance of a Danish cargo ship.

Both recovered without serious injuries to their crews, and since then the RNLI and its crewmen have had total confidence in their boats' ability to stand almost any punishment.

Nothing, however, could have helped the Solomon Browne, if, as is thought, she was damaged going alongside the ship, and possibly holed.

She could have been partly filled on her attempted journey to port and perhaps totally overwhelmed by one of the enormous waves running at the time, particularly if the engine had been damaged, putting her out of control.

Mr. Brian Miles, RNLI duty director designate, said: "All lifeboats are de-

signed to be unsinkable. This

one had an airbag behind the wheelhouse to right the boat if it capsized, but of course it could not help the vessel if it hit rocks."

In 1975 several members of the Penlee boat's crew were awarded medals and certificates for gallantry after they went out in force 12 gales.

They were alerted by a mayday signal from the motor vessel Lovat, but its crew had abandoned ship by the time the lifeboat and a helicopter reached them, and there were no survivors.

The RNLI fleet comprises 258 vessels and 78 relief vessels. Of these, 127 are newer designed vessels with "airbag" protection put in at the time of building. There are 26 older Watson class boats, with 11 in standby service.

Mr. Edward Wake-Walker, for the RNLI, said there was no question of phasing out the Watson and similar vessels. They were all built to stay in service for 25 years. "These boats are built to a very high standard of ruggedness," the

RNLI said.

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The price paid for heroism

By John Young and John Charters

The National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck was founded in 1824 and was renamed the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1854. Supported, as it frequently and proudly reminds us, entirely by voluntary contributions, it has saved more than 106,000 lives, including 6,376 during the last war.

But it has also paid the price. Two hundred and sixty-four lifeboatmen have been lost at sea since records were started in the middle of the last century. The worst disaster was in 1928, when the entire crew, 17 men, were drowned off Rye Harbour, Sussex.

Since then lifeboat disasters have included: 1939: St Ives lifeboat, the John Sarah Eliza Stych, capsized twice while going to the rescue of a steamer. Seven men lost, one survived.

April 24, 1947: Eight-man crew of the Mumbles lifeboat, Edward Prince of Wales, drowned in a vain attempt to rescue the crew of the Samtampa, which had been driven on to rocks off Porthcawl. Forty members of the Samtampa's crew also died under the eyes of helpless watchers ashore.

February 9, 1953: Six of the seven crew of the Fraserburgh lifeboat, John and Charles Kennedy, were lost when it capsized at the harbour entrance while escorting a fishing boat to safety.

November 17, 1962: Seaham lifeboat, the George Elmy, capsized after taking off the crew of a fishing boat. Five lifeboatmen and four others drowned. One survivor.

March 18, 1969: Bodies of seven of the eight-man crew of the Longhope lifeboat, TGB, found on board the capsized craft after it had been towed ashore. It had answered a distress call from a Liberian cargo vessel which had run aground off the Orkney Islands.

January 22, 1970: Fraserburgh lifeboat, Duchess of Kent, capsized off Kinnairds Head, Aberdeenshire, while standing by crippled Danish ship. Five drowned, one saved.

All previous records of the numbers of lives saved by lifeboat and helicopter in the British Isles are likely to be broken when final figures are collated for 1981, a year in which Britain and the Irish Republic suffered its worst weather for many decades.

2,000 lives saved by rescue services

Figures supplied on Saturday by the RNLI, the Navy, the RAF and two civilian firms which provide helicopter rescue cover in the North Sea, show that nearly 2,000 people over their lives to those agencies. Another 500 were helped either by being taken to hospital rapidly by helicopter or evacuated from ships or ill rigs in danger.

The figures add weight to recent claims that rescue services in the British Isles are the best in the world, involving close liaison between the coastguard and lifeboat services, the Armed Forces and civilian helicopters, with backup by the British States Air Force and the Irish Army Air Corps.

Some of the most dramatic rescues have been carried out during the recent Arctic period, preceded by the storms of late October and early November.

They included the mass airlift late last month of 46 men from the drifting Transworld 58 oil rig in severe weather by two of Bristol Helicopters' aircraft from Aberdeen.

In the past fortnight alone five crew members from a sunken British ship off the south-west coast of Ireland were found by an RAF Wessex in total darkness and a force 9 gale ("impossible according to the rules", an RAF spokesman said), and a combined lifeboat and Navy helicopter operation in the Channel saved 35 people from a capsizing South American ship.

Many of this year's rescues at sea involved joint operations by lifeboats and helicopters, giving the lie to earlier theories that modern long-range helicopters had made offshore lifeboats redundant.

The RNLI has saved 906 lives this year. Its 254 off-shore and in-shore boats in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic have been launched 2,608 times.

Many rescues in the Western Approaches have been carried out by a combination of efforts made by RNLI boats based in the Irish Republic and in Ulster, the Irish Army Air Corps' own small fleet of helicopters, and Royal Navy and RAF aircraft, which are invariably given diplomatic clearance to fly over Irish territory, and refuel if necessary, on rescue missions.

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SDP panel starts to choose candidates

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

With detailed bargaining now under way between the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party over more than a hundred of the parliamentary seats which they hope to share between them at the next general election, the SDP will interview today the first of about 1,000 of their members who have applied to become prospective parliamentary candidates.

An interviewing board of three, including Mr. William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockport, and Mr. John Roper, MP for Farnworth, will examine the first batch of applicants for their suitability to be entered on the approved list from which the constituency will later make their selections.

In all, the party hope by the end of March to have rather more than 300 prizes to award, some more worthwhile than others in the shape of seats where the Liberals have agreed to stand down in their favour and to give mutual support.

As soon as the two parties have agreed on the division of seats in any county or group of counties the Social Democrats intend to have prospective candidates ready to move in and start work.

In many areas the anxiety to build an organization and adopt a prospective candidate is stimulated by the fact that the Liberals are already well down the road, with some 230 prospective candidates chosen.

The unwillingness of Liberals to move over for their alliance partners became clear at the weekend when three sets of negotiations, in Reading, Cambridge and Preston, were adjourned until next month with friendly words spoken but little progress made.

Each side yesterday was observing a pact to give no details of what was discussed. But locally as nationally, it was clear that the seats which the SDP would most like to take on are also those which the Liberals regard as most winnable and are reluctant to give up.

The Preston talks dealt with 22 constituencies in Lancashire and Cumbria; those at Cambridge with 19 in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire; and those at Reading with 16 in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The main obstacle to progress is the fact that although the SDP teams in each case have power to negotiate, the Liberal teams can only listen and promise to report to their local associations in each constituency.

It is much harder for the Liberals than for us because of their constituency structure," an SDP negotiator said yesterday.

"They are like the Ottoman Empire—they bring quite a lot of historical baggage with them. And because they are well entrenched in many constituencies they feel they are giving up something every time."

SDP leaders, while generally confident, are resigned to the belief that some local disagreements will need to be resolved by arbitration at the centre. But Liberals have less confidence that local parties will respect any decree from the centre.

THATCHER RESISTS REFLATION

By Our Political Staff

In an early new year message to the Conservative faithful, the Prime Minister claims today that "we are winning our way through the most severe recession for 50 years". But writing in the January issue of the Conservative News Mr. Margaret Thatcher adds: "No, it's not right yet, and there is still a long way to go."

January is the time-honoured month for new year resolutions, she writes, and the greatest of all resolutions this January is resolution itself—determination that the course we are following is the right one, that it is beginning to show results."

Mrs. Thatcher invites Conservatives to be proud of their achievement.

"The rate of coming down further during the coming year: productivity... is up and still rising; restrictive practices have declined; over-manning is down and competitiveness has improved 10 per cent in 1981."

"We have achieved a great deal in a short time, but there is much more to be done," Mrs. Thatcher tells her supporters, and she warns them to beware of the beguiling word "reflation" which their opponents and even some of their supporters are using. All it means, she says, is re-inflation.

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Nigel Brockman, ready for an expedition.



Cox Trevelyan Richards and Barry Torrie on duty. Torrie was married with two children.



Nigel Brockman, ready for an expedition.

Khomeini's most wanted opponent leaves Iran to form coalition

By Edward Mortimer

Mr Hedayatollah Matine-Dafary, grandson of former prime minister Mohammed Mossadeq and a leading spokesman for secular democratic forces in Iran, has arrived in the West after more than two years in hiding in Tehran, during much of which time he was the Khomeini regime's most wanted political opponent.

Giving his first interview to a journalist for two and a half years, Mr Matine-Dafary said in Paris last week that his party, the National Democratic Front, had been operating clandestinely, concentrating on work for a broad coalition of progressive, democratic, secular and non-sectarian forces.

He had left Iran not to escape repression, but as a result of a decision by the front's leader. "We left Iran because we felt that our main goal was about to be realized outside Iran and we left Iran to come and help the realization of this goal," he said.

Dialogue with other opposition forces would be easier outside Iran, especially as so many leading opposition figures were in France.

Mr Matine-Dafary made it clear he was alluding in particular to the National Resistance Council, formed by the exiled president, Mr Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr and Mr Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Muslim left-wing guerrilla organization, the Mujahedin Khalq, which, Mr Matine-Dafary said, was now undoubtedly the main national armed opposition to the regime in Iran.

The front has announced it is joining the National Resistance Council. In spite of reservations about its original charter, in the interview, (given before the decision was announced) Mr Matine-Dafary made it clear he wanted guarantees from the Mujahedin and from Mr Bani-Sadr about the democratic nature of the regime which would follow the



Mr Matine-Dafary deplores silence over atrocities.

downfall of Ayatollah Khomeini.

He emphasized the importance of autonomy and said that much of the fronts work in Iran had been devoted to forging an alliance between regional groups such as the Kurdistan Democratic Party and progressive forces on the national level.

Asked if repression in Iran was much worse than under the Shah, Mr Matine-Dafary said there was no comparison, because the Shah's repression had been that of a ruthless, highly organized and institutionalized machine, whereas the present reign of terror was a mere brutal assault at random by people who "cannot pinpoint

the exact points they want to hit."

Mr Matine-Dafary deplored the tendency in the West to treat Iran merely as news and to neglect the human dimension. He contrasted the attention given to Dr Sakharov's hunger strike recently with the near-silence on atrocity reports from Iran.

Dr Bahman Nirumand, a fellow member of the front's executive who escaped with Mr Matine-Dafary, said that in October he had seen girls 12 or 13 years old shot out of hand by Revolutionary Guards in a Tehran street when the Mujahedin had called for demonstrations.

What was the reaction of the bystanders? "People

were running away, because anyone who stayed got killed... I saw four of five girls lying dead; they were wearing school uniforms."

Mr Matine-Dafary said 15 per cent of the people, at most supported the regime. At least five million were unemployed and those who still had jobs might see their firm close or be denounced as "counter-revolutionary" by the "Islamic committee" at their work-place.

There were acute food shortages, though the regime overcame these in overpopulated and politically sensitive places such as Tehran at the expense of more remote areas. Eggs were selling at the equivalent of 50p each.

These difficulties worsened by the war with Iraq, from which there were nearly two million Iranian refugees. In addition, many refugees had come to Iran from Afghanistan.

Mr Matine-Dafary said he believed there was a power struggle within the regime between those allied with the Tudeh (Communist) party and those who, without admitting it looked for support from the West.

The Tudeh, he insisted, had no public support, but was well organized and had tried to earn the regime's gratitude by locating opponents who were in hiding and denouncing them.

The war was diverting attention from domestic problems.

The regime had tried hard to demobilize the armed forces before the war began. The Governor of Khuzestan had even had the gun-barrels sawn off a number of tanks. But the war had rejuvenated the army and it now faithfully reflected Iranian society, with the same variety of political opinions.

Mr Matine-Dafary said leaving the country overland had been difficult, risky and arduous. He would not say which border he had crossed.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Alexeyeva flies to her husband

Boston — Miss Lisa Alexeyeva, granted a Soviet exit visa after a hunger strike by Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife, flew from Paris to New York last night to a reunion with her husband and a new life in the United States.

It was the first time in more than three years that the couple have seen each other. Her husband, Mr Alexei Semenov, who is Dr Sakharov's stepson, was waiting to greet her at Boston airport.

Before leaving Paris, Miss Alexeyeva appealed for worldwide support for Dr Sakharov.

Prison amnesty in Italy

Rome — A third of Italy's prison population will be released before Christmas under an amnesty published at the weekend. About 12,000 prisoners, serving sentences of less than three years imposed before August 31, will benefit from the amnesty. All other sentences will be reduced by two years.

Prisoners convicted of terrorist acts or crimes against state security are not eligible for the amnesty. The measure is aimed at improving conditions in the country's overcrowded jails, which hold about 35,000 inmates.

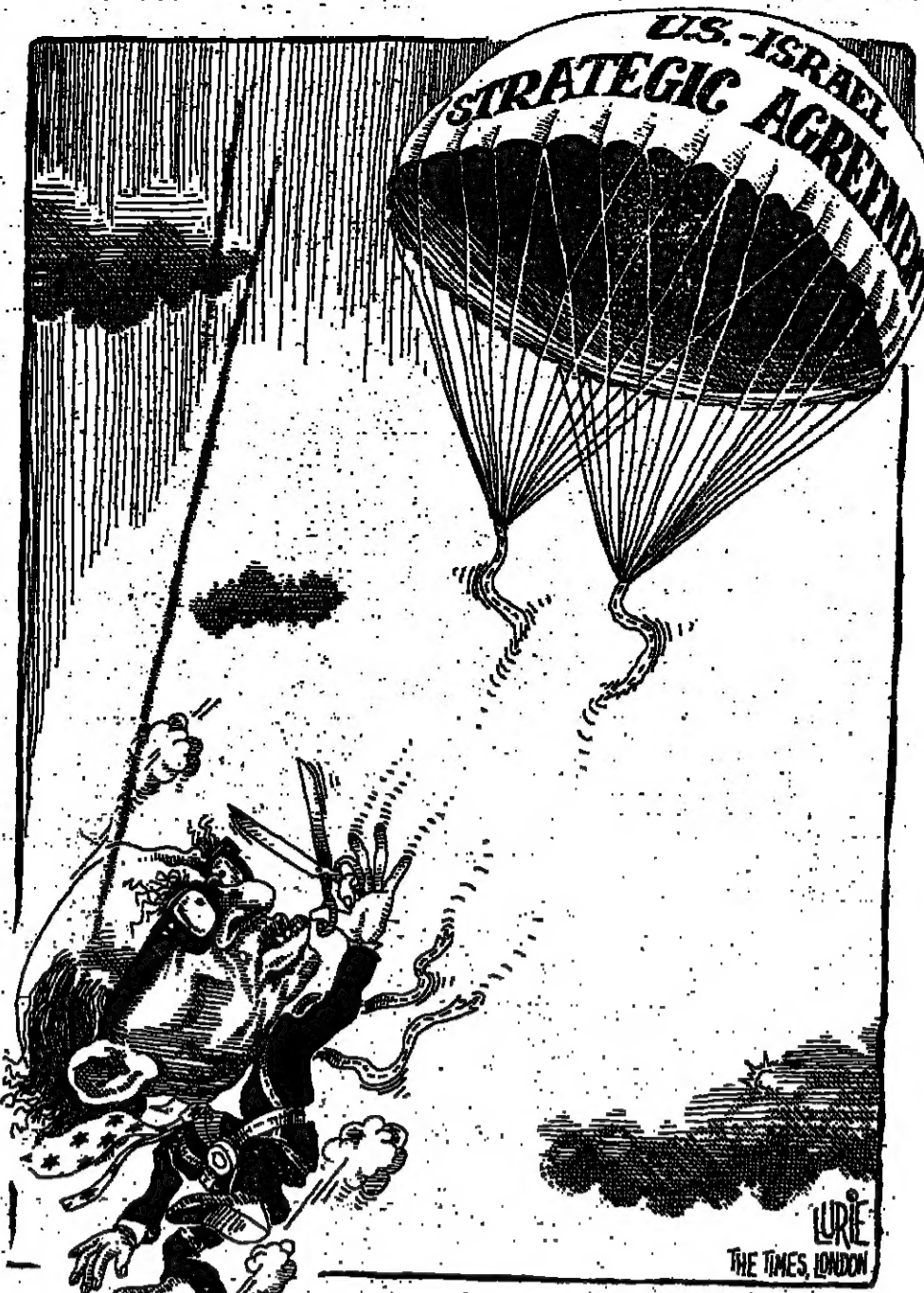
Coup fails in Dominica

Georgetown — A failed coup in the West Indian island of Dominica against the government of Miss Eugenia Charles, caused two deaths and left 10 people injured, Dominica radio said at the weekend.

The report said that 6 armed men led by Mr Ashtor Benjamin, the former Dominican armed forces commander, had been shot dead by the police and the police station in the capital, Roseau.

Afghan gunships strafe refugees

Islamabad — Six Afghan gunship helicopters strafed an Afghan refugee camp 400 yards inside Pakistan, the north-west frontier, on Sunday, killing 11 and wounding 20. Two houses were destroyed. Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with Kabul and called for the attacks to cease.



"Get off my back!"

Golan outcry bewilders Arabs

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Dec 20

The deepening crisis in Arab-Israeli relations has left the Arabs bewildered. Unable to comprehend the deterioration of Israeli-American relations as the Israelis displayed at the Arab summit conference at Fez last month, the Beirut press also gave prominence to a remark attributed to an American Government spokesman who allegedly claimed that Israel had planned to take advantage of the Polish crisis to make an incursion into southern Lebanon.

This morning's Lebanese daily newspapers showed the same kind of satisfaction and surprise at the new attitude of the American administration — together with the United States' condemnation of Israel in the United Nations Security Council — marks a very important turning point in American policy towards Arabs and in the face of Israeli arrogance.

The death toll after a weekend of bombings in Beirut rose to 13 tonight when a car-bomb exploded without warning in the west of the city, killing two people.

Iranians are terrorists of the Gulf, Saudis say

Bahrain, Dec 20 — Saudi Arabia today accused Iran of becoming the terrorist of the Gulf and offered to help other moderate Arab states with their internal security.

Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz, the Interior Minister, said the kingdom supported Iraq against Iran in the 15-month Gulf War, reflecting mounting antagonism between his country and the administration in Tehran.

"The Iranians, who said after their revolution that they did not want to be the policeman of the Gulf, have become the terrorists of the Gulf," he said after signing a security cooperation accord with Bahrain a week after Bahrain authorities said they had thwarted a coup attempt which was, they said, backed by Iran.

Iran has denied the charge, but Prince Naif, who said the plot was also aimed at other

Gulf states, described the denial as a lie. "The conspiracy was hatched in Iran."

Shaikh Muhammad bin Khalifa al-Khalifa, the Bahrain Interior Minister, declined to answer questions about the plot until investigations had been completed.

The attempted coup was said to include plans to kill or take hostage senior government officials in Bahrain and other Gulf

states. Prince Naif said 12 Saudis were among 60 arrested by Bahrain in connection with the coup plot.

Beirut: Mr Hossein Mousavi, the Iranian Prime Minister, has promised his country that after three years of political turmoil the Government was ready to provide "work, social and economic security", the official Pars news agency reported (AP reports).

"I was so impressed by the new Cavalier, I bought 700."

TONY GRIMSHAW, DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR, SWAN NATIONAL CAR RENTAL



"We now Britain's No. 1 company in business car rental."

One of the reasons is that we're the most competitive on rates. So when we look for new cars, we have to cast a very practical eye on them.

Fauxhall invited me to check out the new Cavaliers, and I loved them on sight. They're stylish and very well specified. The new hatchback is exceptional, the saloon has got this incredible 18 cu. ft. boot. I know my customers will like the look of them as much as I did.

And when I checked the fuel figures, I was even more impressed. 29.4 mpg around town, and 46.3 mpg at 56 mph from the 1600S. That's going to appeal to our customers too. And so is the power.

The 1600S pushes out 90 hp, which compares favourably with many two litre cars. But what finally convinced me were some of the less glamorous features about the car.

Features that we have to pay close attention to if we're to continue running a successful operation.

Like we can replace the clutch in just 65 minutes because although the new Cavalier is front wheel drive, we don't have to extract the engine 15 mins to change a shock absorber.

We never need to adjust the tappets. Just one hour to replace a front wing. And so on. Vauxhall have really thought this car out beautifully from the operator's point of view.

What could I do? Immediately I put down an order for 260. And our customers were so delighted with the cars that I've now ordered 440 more.

So if you'd like to rent a new Cavalier for a few days, just give me a ring on 01-995 9242."

THE ALL-NEW CAVALIER.

THE POWER YOU WANT. THE ECONOMY YOU NEED. THE PRICE YOU'LL LIKE.

DCE FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE ALL-NEW CAVALIER 1600S MANUAL: CONSTANT 56 MPH/44.3 MPG (8.1/100 KM), URBAN CYCLE: 29.4 MPG (8.1/100 KM), COMBINED: 35.3 MPG (8.1/100 KM). 1600S AUTOMATIC: CONSTANT 56 MPH/42.2 MPG (8.7/100 KM), URBAN CYCLE: 28.5 MPG (8.7/100 KM), COMBINED: 32.5 MPG (8.7/100 KM). SPECIFICATION FIGURES ARE NAMEPLATE FIGURES.

Eye-witness accounts

Poland in the grip of fear, panic and antisemitism

From John Witherow, Ystad, southern Sweden, Dec 20

If one overriding impression has emerged from travellers' tales of Poland a week after the military takeover, it is that the situation is much more serious than the martial law would lead one to believe.

Swedes arriving in this land, snow-enraptured, now see the main link between Scandinavia and Poland—speaking of widespread reports of looting, of disturbances in the south near Katowice and of considerable industrial unrest in isolated areas elsewhere.

One unconfirmed report today, quoting a church official, stated 200 people had died in clashes in Poland during the past week. The Warsaw authorities say only seven people have been killed.

A reliable witness, who arrived here on a four-day trip to Poland, said the reports of up to 200 people being killed were spoken of by several sources in Warsaw, including Western journalists, diplomats, the Church and Solidarity. If not proven, they were at least believed by many Poles, adding to the overall atmosphere of pessimism and fear.

The witness also suggested there were signs of increased antisemitism, encouraged by the state to divert attention from hardship and the military regime. Jews, he said, were being accused of hoarding food and were being turned away from the long queues at shops.

Similar allegations were made in Stockholm by Dr Olof Landberg, who has links with the Swedish Academy of Sciences. He said newspapers were encouraging antisemitism.

Mr Jacob Swiedcicki, the Solidarity representative in Sweden, said that the Polish state radio was broadcasting veiled antisemitic statements, suggesting that Jews were trying to destroy the economy by making it dependent on Western aid. The broadcasts had blamed Jews for buying up everything from the Polish markets and collaborating with international Zionism.

Other travellers spoke of continued disturbances in the birthplace of the Solidarity movement. The port appears to be the scene of bitter resistance to military rule.

A Finnish student, who was recently in Gdansk, spoke of police dispersing crowds outside the shipyards last week with tear gas "which hung in a low cloud over the city and its suburbs".

The authorities have admitted more than 300 casualties in the Gdansk clashes, but the student said hospitals were so overcrowded that the injured were left in hotels.

A sailor who sought asylum in Sweden, claimed he saw workers pick up a soldier and throw him through a window. He also reported reports of a man being run down and killed by a tank in the Lenin shipyard, which still appears to be at least partially occupied by strikers.

Another sailor told reporters in Sweden: "I saw a big dump of about 400 people in the city centre in Gdansk. The Army moved in using truncheons and tear gas. There was a lot of blood, but I didn't hear if anyone killed."

Shipyard at Szczecin also appeared to be occupied and a local newspaper said that hundreds of workers had been dismissed.

A Swedish ferry driver said he had been told by two journalists that a person was killed in a demonstration in Warsaw in Thursday when police used a water cannon to disperse crowds. Dr Landberg said he had been told by reliable sources that Mr Krzysztof Sliwinski, a distinguished biochemist had killed himself by jumping from a window on Friday while under police arrest.

There were also reports of panic buying of shops as Poles attempted to exchange their rapidly devaluing currency on the black market for goods of all types. One woman was seen to walk into a shop and buy six pairs of shoes, claiming that her money would soon be worthless.

Mr Anders Wessman, the Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross who paid a brief visit to Poland and returned today, said he was alarmed by signs of "manic depression" in free rooming houses and had witnessed appalling conditions in a children's hospital.

Envoy from Vatican arrives in Warsaw

From John Earle, Rome, December 20

The Pope is waiting to hear news from his special envoy, Archbishop Luigi Poggiani, who he sent yesterday to Warsaw to reestablish contacts severed in the military coup.

Mr Poggiani, who had long experience in the Vatican dealing with Poland and Eastern Europe, flew to Vienna, then took the night express to Warsaw.

The Vatican has been unable to communicate with the Prime Minister, Archbishop Jozef Glemp, or other ecclesiastical authorities since last Sunday. A Vatican official said Mr Poggiani's first objective was to establish contact with the Government and the episcopate.

He indicated that the Holy See would be prepared to lend its good offices for the purposes of ending strife, saying that it would do all possible to contribute to any initiative.

At his appearance to pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square today, the Pope said he would continue to ask for prayers and solidarity with the Polish people, "which has a right to live its own life in peace and with respect for human rights".

In particular, he asked for prayers for those who had been killed or injured, arrested or taken away from their families, and for families deprived of their dear ones.

A dispatch to the Italian news agency Ansa from a correspondent just back from Warsaw said Mr Glemp was informed by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, on the telephone about the impending takeover a few hours before it took place.

When he expressed surprise, the general cut him short with: "Either it is us, or it will be the Russians." The Prime Minister made a planned visit to Ciesztocowa on the Sunday, then returned to Warsaw and broadcast his appeal to avoid bloodshed.

The dispatch said this account was believed to be accurate, as it had come from several independent sources.

Further reports from more than one source said that General Jaruzelski had acted to forestall an initiative by hard-liners in the party backed by Moscow. In this connection, the names were mentioned of Mr Stefan Olszowski, a member of the Politburo and secretary, and of Mr Stanislaw Kociolek, party head in Warsaw.

There had been slowness in Moscow's reaction to the move by General Jaruzelski, a man it regarded as necessary but disliked, because he continued to speak of the country's renewal and threatened to displace the party with a technocratic leadership. There was no doubt that since last Sunday the party's role had been reduced.

Vienna: Mr Poggiani arrived in Poland today accompanied by Mr Janusz Bolonek, an official of the Church's public affairs council, according to Warsaw radio, monitored here (AFP reports).

The radio gave no details of the programme of the visit. It did, however, quote the statement by the Pope asking all persons of good will to pray for Poland.

The Church



Remember my country: The Pope, speaking from behind bullet-proof glass, appeals to pilgrims at the Vatican to pray for Poland.

POLISH NEWS IN SUMMARY

Flights to London suspended

The Polish airline LOT has suspended scheduled flights from Warsaw to London. The airline was due to fly a jet to London yesterday. It was cancelled.

A LOT spokesman said: "Because of the present situation flights are only expected to leave Warsaw when there are sufficient passengers."

British returning from Poland fear that their business interests may be in danger because of the military takeover. One businessman said: "We just don't know if we will be able to return to conduct our business."

Two Poles, arrested for sticking Solidarity posters on a Russian travel agent's window in London, were conditionally discharged for a year on Saturday by Mr St John Harmsworth, Marlborough St magistrate, who told them: "I fully appreciate your motives, but you shouldn't have done it."

MPs, industrialists and writers in Britain have asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, to get Britain and other Western nations to take action over the Polish crisis.

All postal services in Poland have been suspended by the military authorities since Saturday, a West German lorry driver said on return from the country.

Polish troops are carrying out stringent checks on transport in Warsaw.

The debts

German banks wary of granting loans

Stuttgart, Dec 20.—West German banks will only consider granting Poland more loans if the West German Government gives a total guarantee for such credits, Mr Harald Kuchner, chairman of the Association of German Banks, said.

Mr Kuchner, interviewed on south German radio, said his association had received a telegram from General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's military ruler, pledging that Poland would honour international commitments and make efforts to reduce its debt.

Mr Kuchner said that since Poland could not pay interest due this year, the German banks were not prepared to supply further credit. The situation would change if the West German Government gave a 100 per cent guarantee for the bank credits.

Poland approached Western creditor banks last Tuesday, requesting an extra \$350m (about £175m) to pay for interest payments due this year, financial sources in Frankfurt reported earlier.

A working group of eight western banks, formed several months ago to cope with unexpected developments in the debt rescheduling negotiations, will hold an emergency meeting in Zurich tomorrow to discuss the Polish request.

Poland's reported inability to pay its interest arrears is threatening an agreement with Western banks allowing it to delay repaying loans totalling \$2,400m due this year. Its foreign debt was \$25,700m at the end of October.—Reuter.

We confidently predict our whiskey will be received with enthusiasm by relatively few people.

Black Bush is a whiskey of rare distinction. It has an exceptionally full flavour and a smoothness of legendary proportions.

However, few people have had the good fortune to have made note of the marvellous impression Black Bush has on the palate.

The reason is not a complicated one. Quite simply, Black Bush has not been widely available.

In fact, scarce might be a more appropriate word. Hardly surprising then, that not everyone is fully aware of its mellow Irish character or its triple distillation process which adds to its special smoothness.

Fortunately, Black Bush is finding its way, slowly but surely, into more off-licences. Naturally, we're confident that our small number of enthusiasts will be joined by just a few more.

Christmas convoy wins through

From Robert Schill, Amsterdam, Dec 20

The last 42 lorries of a huge Dutch convoy which distributed 18,000 tonnes of food and medicine to various parts of Poland last week returned to The Netherlands today.

Exhausted by their long and dramatic journey the drivers told emotional stories of their friendly reception by the Polish people and of the depression they felt from what they had seen and heard of the crisis in Poland.

One of the drivers said that he had been told by a bishop that the seven miners who had been killed in the Katowice area had not been shot but bludgeoned to death.

The 122 lorries of the convoy, carrying 200,000 Christmas parcels, were forced to wait for 36 hours near Poznan before being allowed to proceed under military escort. During this time the drivers were not allowed to enter Poznan and had to sleep in their cabins.

They said officials had tried to persuade them to hand their cargo over to the military authorities but the drivers had retorted that they would rather burn the goods first. The convoy was eventually allowed to disperse to 32 points of distribution all over Poland.

West linked to Polish television

Bornholm, Dec 20.—The Danish island of Bornholm, 60 miles north of Poland, has assumed a key role in international efforts to get information from the country since martial law was imposed.

Denmark, the only Western country able to pick up Polish television, at a station on Bornholm. Signals are relayed to Copenhagen, then transmitted to viewers through the Eurovision network.

At 7.30 pm local time, the military Government begins its daily newscast. Signals from the Polish television transmitter at Kolobrzeg, east of the port of Swinoujscie, can be picked up by ordinary domestic receivers at certain high points on Bornholm.

Amateur shortwave radio operators on the island lost all contact with Polish operators last Monday. They believe the Poles have had their sets confiscated, or have hidden them for future use.

The Bornholm authorities have emergency plans to cope with a sudden influx of refugees, a spokesman for Roenne central hospital said today. The popular holiday island has a hotel bed capacity at least equal to its population of about 50,000.

Hyde Park protest

Many hear appeals for food and medicine

By Lucy Hodges

Between 12,000 and 15,000 demonstrators braved the cold weather yesterday to mass in Hyde Park, London, in protest at military rule in Poland. They later marched past the Polish Embassy where a deputation delivered a letter.

Angry speeches from British MPs, a trade unionist and Polish exiles expressed support for Solidarity and demanded that financial support for the martial law regime in Poland be halted. An appeal was launched for urgently needed medical supplies and baby food.

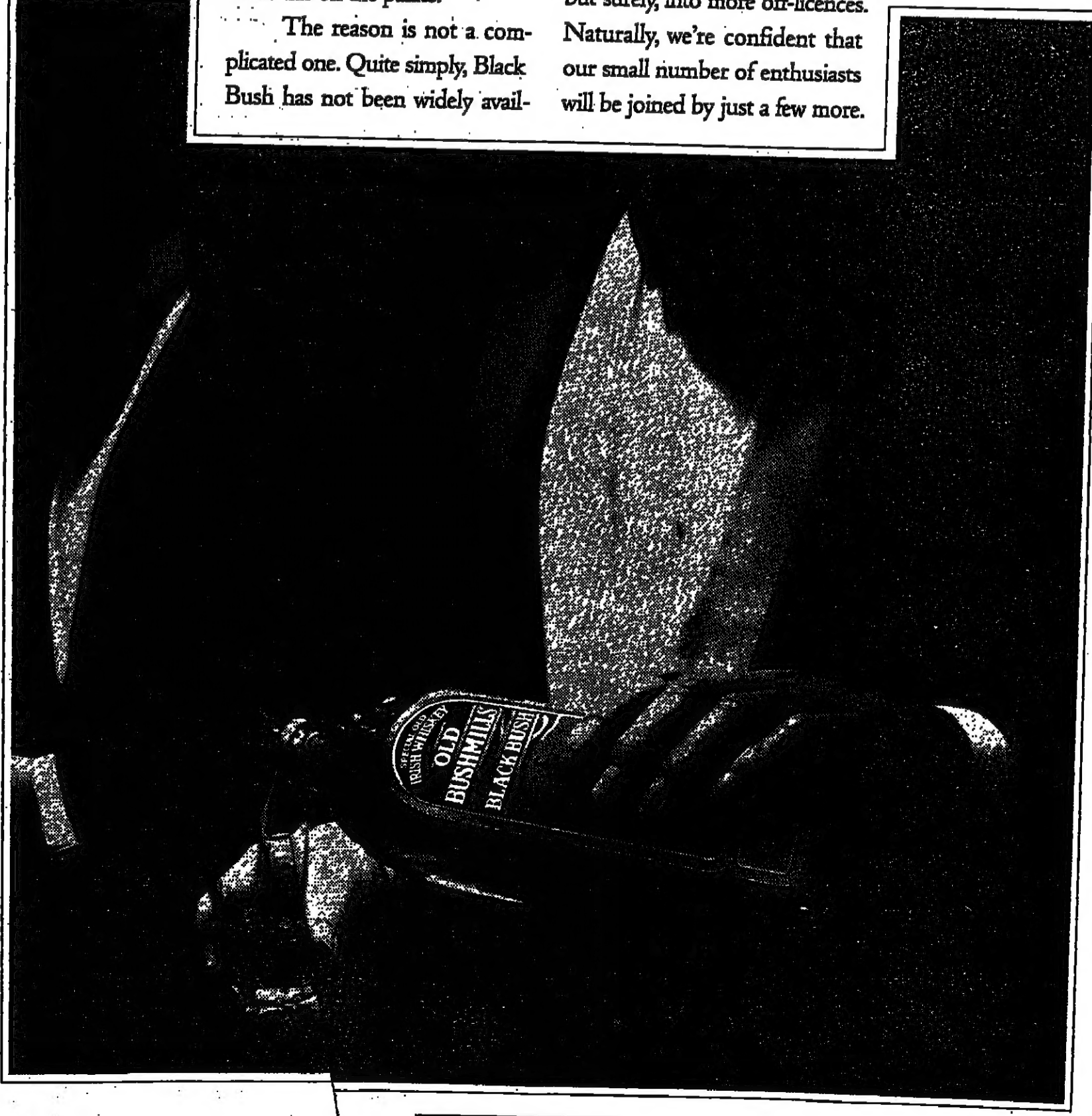
Mrs Shirley Williams, the new Social Democratic MP for Crosby, said Western bankers should not lend another penny to the regime unless there were discussions about the release of Lech Walesa and the 17,000 other imprisoned activists. "We could do a very great deal with the will, intention and courage," she said.

Mr Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North, said that strong collective action by people in Britain could make General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, draw back.

"We today want the message to come out loud and clear to the Polish Embassy that these massacres must stop, this bankrupt regime which has collapsed into Bonapartism must restore the liberties of the Polish people."

The secretary of the Polish Solidarity Campaign in Britain, who has recently returned from Poland, said that the military takeover bore all the hallmarks of Russian intervention. He called on the British not to betray the Poles again as they had done in 1919 and at Yalta.

A Solidarity member read out a message from one of the anti-working groups which had been smuggled out to the West. Mr E. P. Thompson, the anti-nuclear campaigner, said that peace and freedom were indivisible.



BLACK BUSH

TO HELP YOU FIND BLACK BUSH, HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

WINE - AL BAKERIAN DELMONICO'S ON COVENTRY & LEICESTER BARNWELL'S SELFLEDGES ARMY & NAVY BARBERS SOHO WINE MARKET ODDIBNS BOTTOMS UP UNWINS ANDRE SIMON WALLINGFORD WINE Oxford THOMAS BENT & SON Liverpool KENDRICK PEATING & CALDERON Ray St. Edmunds CABRIS & HICKY Lond BEECHWOOD WINE STORES Lond JULIAN FLOOR Bred ADAMS of Southfield CLANCY'S Glasgow SAUNDERS Edinburgh

Perfect lift-off

هكذا من الرجل

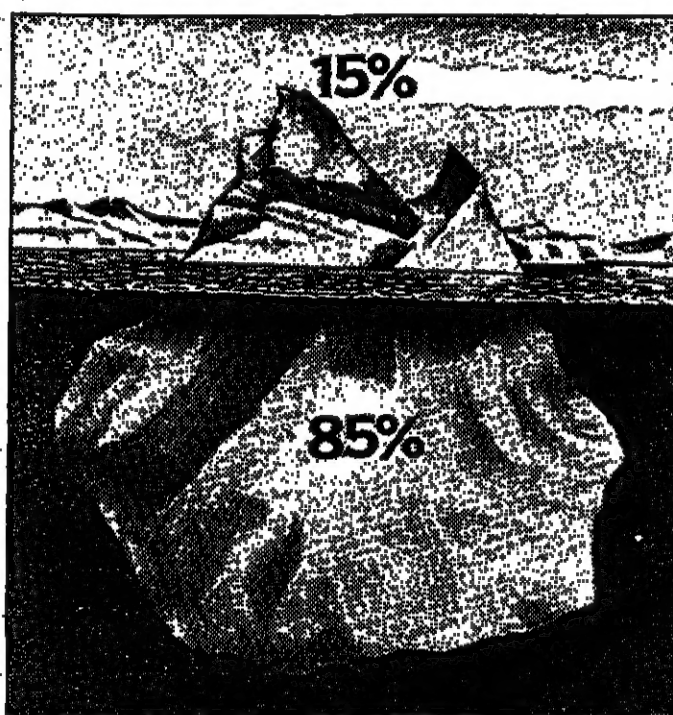
Are you buying a truck or an iceberg?

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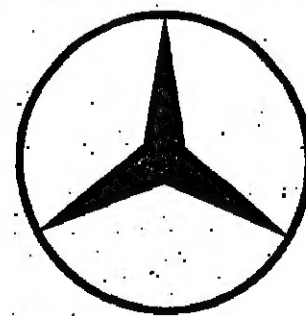
Mercedes offer a comprehensive range of commercial vehicles to suit practically any type of operation, with a choice of specification, body type and payload.

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Too cold to live

Malcolm Wicks looks for an answer to the problem of hypothermia

Rather like the Grand National and the Cup Final, hypothermia has become an annual event, often prompted by a particularly tragic case. When the ice disappears and the temperature rises the subject is filed by journalists and politicians for another year. But for many elderly people the issue does not disappear so quickly.

Hypothermia means low body temperature. In 1964 a special committee of the British Medical Association noted: "Most cases of hypothermia are missed because ordinary clinical thermometers do not record the condition". The BMA also observed that many elderly bedridden patients may die in their homes without the condition being diagnosed. "We therefore suspect that the incidence is very much higher than is commonly supposed".

In 1963 a study by the Royal College of Physicians showed that many patients admitted to hospital had dangerously low body temperatures. However, the incidence of low body temperatures among old people living at home was not known. In the absence of good evidence, there were disputes about the extent of the problem — the government pointed to death certificate data to show there were only a dozen or so hypothermia deaths a year, while others put the figure at 60,000. The two figures were equally unreliable.

A team of us therefore undertook a national survey from January to March 1972 whose findings remain the only reliable evidence for Britain as a whole. It was found that 0.58 per cent of a sample of more than 1,000 elderly people had morning inner body temperatures below 95°F. Further, 9.6 per cent were estimated to be at risk of becoming hypothermic (ie, they had inner body temperatures below a cut-off point of 95.9°F). Nationally, they represented 700,000 elderly people.

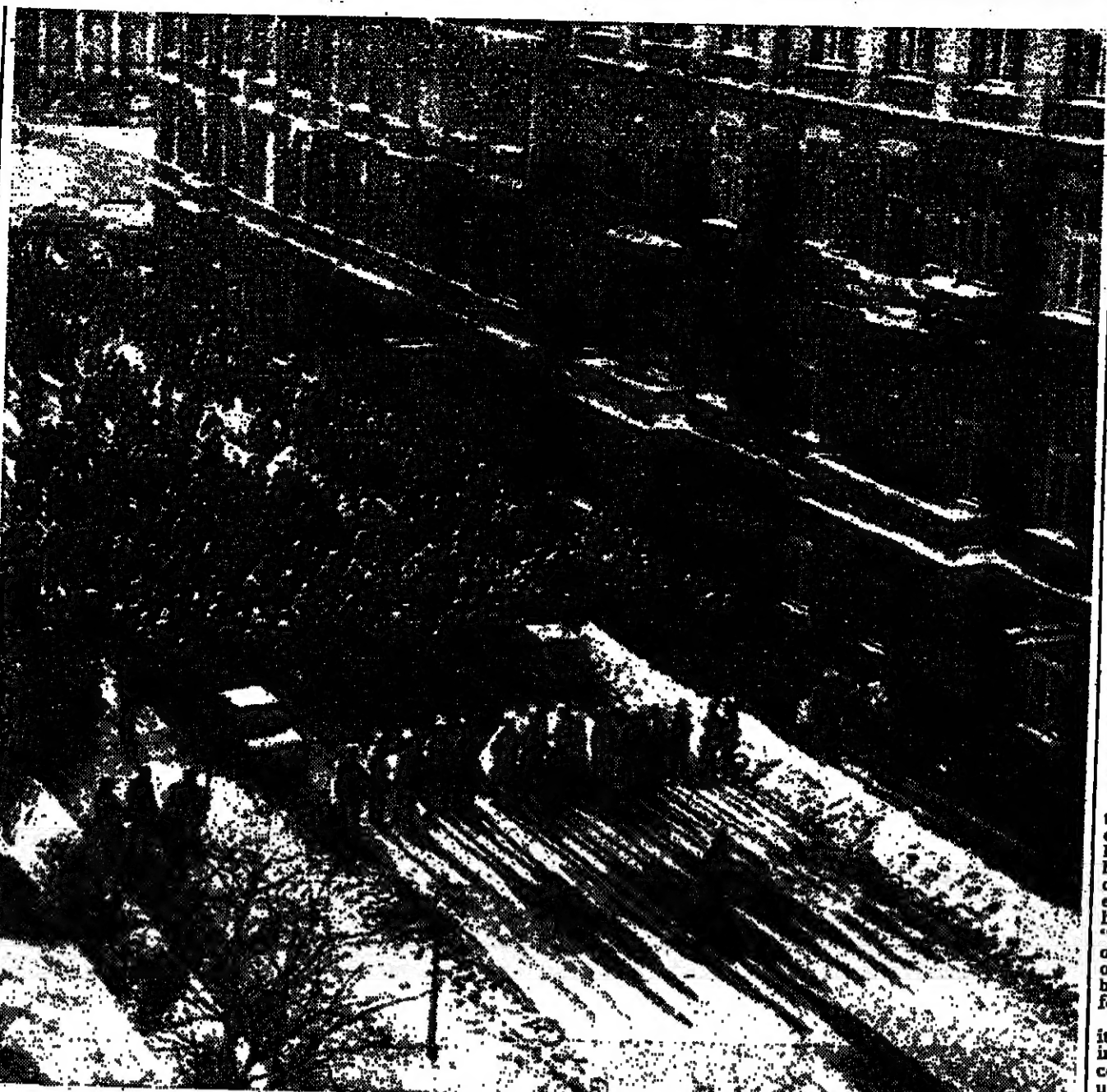
Three factors suggest that the problem has got worse since the 1972 survey: rising energy costs, the dramatic increase in the number of old people and the cuts in social service spending. It is a warning from the Association of Directors of Social Services that further cuts may well "foreshorten the lives of the elderly".

Governments have not been entirely inactive but reactions have been cautious and often confused. There have been electricity discount schemes (now abolished), heating additions for supplementary benefit recipients and insulation grants. But there has been no comprehensive strategy, perhaps because at least four government departments are involved: Health and Social Security, Environment, Energy and Employment.

It is mere idealism to suggest, for example, that we launch a national campaign programme, focusing on the needs of the elderly and poor? The planning problems would be complex, but not insuperable if imagination could replace inertia.

This is the right time of the year to recall that the quality of a society depends crucially on how we care for our poorest and most vulnerable members. This winter a number of old people will die simply because they are too cold to live. Many more will live in cold, miserable conditions. It is surely not beyond our means, even with our economic troubles, to translate public concern into a tangible programme of support.

The author wrote *Old and Cold: Hypothermia and Social Policy* (Heinemann Educational Books, 1978).



The reality of martial law: police confront workers in a Warsaw street

Poland: why the West must do more than protest

by Aleksander Smolar

The military rule imposed on Poland is an open admission that the communist system have disintegrated. It is an admission that the system has been rejected by the whole nation, even by the majority of party members. What has taken place is not a coup d'état but a coup against the nation. It is a declaration of war. The authorities hope for a quick end to the crisis, but I think they are greatly mistaken.

They show total misunderstanding of the process which has taken place in Poland over the past 16 months. Solidarity is not simply a trade union; it is the nation as a whole. Solidarity is only a form adopted by this particular Polish revolution. The revolution cannot be crushed, the nation cannot be destroyed even if thousands of people are arrested. No need for resistance Poles do not need leaders' appeals or instructions. They instinctively know what to do.

For the sake of honesty it has to be said that there is no solution to the Polish drama, that no compromise is possible. Only now has it become the nation's true leaders are imprisoned.

The silence of the interned Lech Walesa, who, as we can imagine, is under enormous psychological pressure to endorse the new order, means exactly this: no negotiations behind bars.

Some say that all this is Poland's internal affair. They maintain that this is the last chance of a Polish solution. It is difficult to say whether there is more ill-will or ignorance in such statements. Who needs it? explained that the Polish army is part of the Warsaw Pact forces controlled by the central command in Moscow? Who can doubt that even if the final decision was taken in Warsaw, it was directly inspired by Moscow?

Naturally Moscow prefers Polish killers for Poles, because it protects the Soviet Union from international consequences of the war declared against the Polish people and from the threat of another Vietnam in the heart of Europe. And because external intervention would inevitably — as so many times in the past — integrate the Polish nation and increase its determination to resist.

Moscow hopes that by dividing the nation and setting some Poles against others, even by civil war, it will be able to crush the vitality of the nation, deprive it of the will to resist and thereby eliminate a permanent hotbed of infection in the Soviet Empire.

That is why the often repeated view that military action is the last Polish solution is entirely false. In fact it is the first stage of the Soviet solution: the first — because only now a direct Soviet intervention is possible. Only now has it become a real and direct threat.

The Polish crisis must also affect the situation of Western Europe. It would be futile to think otherwise. We have recently heard repeated — and quite correct — statements about the lack of strategic balance between East and West and about the dangers to which this situation exposes Western Europe in particular. Not enough, however, is being said about another kind of disequilibrium between West and East — the lack of psychological balance.

In Western Europe there is growing fear — expressed in various movements and in various other ways — of Soviet power and of the threat that war may be caused by the strategic disparity. On the political

level the psychological disparity is more and more keenly felt: it is manifested in concessions to the Soviet Union, in turning a blind eye towards its aggressive policies all over the globe, in an unwillingness to defend oneself.

People often speak of Finlandization as a threat to Europe. That is unjust towards a nation which owes its limited freedom to its heroic struggle against the Soviet Union. What really threatens Europe is its long-konged-for status of a wealthy peninsula politically castrated, with a limited say in deciding its own fate, serving the adjoining continent as a source of credits, modern technology, intellectual and artistic inspiration, a haven for refugees, a market for gas and oil.

The defeat of Poland can only speed up this process. If Poland keeps its hard-won status of relative independence in internal affairs with the people able to participate in shaping their own fate, then the danger of Soviet pressure on Western Europe might considerably decrease. It is cowardly to say that what goes on in Poland is her internal affair. It is worse than a crime — it is a mistake.

The West — public opinion, trade unions, political parties, governments — must react. This much is obvious. It is heartening to hear the almost unanimous exhortations of solidarity with the Polish people in all Western countries. This carries enormous moral and political significance and shows the Polish nation that it does not stand alone in its moment of trial. Large-scale protests might also prevent a tragic turn of events.

But public outcry, manifestos, declarations and protests are not enough: it is necessary to use means capable of persuading rulers in Warsaw and Moscow to stop the war declared on the Polish nation. The West should use the economic weapon in defence of the Polish people and of its own values and interests. I do not mean food aid. President Reagan's decision to stop food aid to Poland is extremely harmful.

The Polish people should not be made to pay the price of the violence used against them; on the contrary food aid should be continued and increased. This aid should not, however, pass through the hands of the military authorities and thereby increase their leverage vis-à-vis the people by rewarding those privileged by the system. The aid should be delivered to the only true representative of the people at the moment, the Church, which is capable of securing proper distribution.

The West must also demonstrate its determination — unfortunately lacking so far — to provide massive economic aid to Poland and enable the economy of the country to stop the process of decomposition which began in 1979. But this aid should be subject to clear conditions: no aid, even no rescheduling of debts which Poland is unable to repay, unless all the people detained in the past few days are released and unless martial law is lifted. If the Polish authorities wish to take advantage of Western aid they must seek a peaceful and true understanding with the people.

The author is a Polish scholar in Paris who keeps close contact with Solidarity. He was an official Western representative of Poland's new dissolved Social Self-Defence Committee (KOR).

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Portrait painting — as good as being in oil

"To have one's portrait painted is such good value for the ego in these troubled times," mused the actor Robert Morley. "It is a pity the poor artist makes so little out of it. They have to buy all the paints, you know."

Vanity flourishes despite the recession, and along with vanity, portrait painting. The official portrait is usually the crowning glory of a career in a City counting-house or being a senior don at an Oxbridge college; just the sort of thing to put in the top person's Christmas stocking.

Everyone, it seems, has a soft spot for posterity. "More and more people are having their portraits painted," said Carl de Winter, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. "Once a company has set the precedent, no chairman will miss his chance, whatever the cost. He will hang on the boardroom wall with the rest of them — even though many regard the sittings in the same light as going to the dentist."

How to find an artist? Of the top ten portrait painters on a list compiled by the National Portrait Gallery, at least four no longer accept commissions.

"People eventually find their way here," said Carl de Winter. "We show them the work of our members, and even that of some people not on our books. We also have a list of fees."

"They are surprised that it's not as expensive as they imagined. A simple portrait can cost £80, a small oil £250, and up to £10,000 for someone like the Spanish painter Ricardo Maccaroni."

If a painter such as Bryan Organ, who did the controversial portrait of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, is required, Mr de Winter will steer you in the right direction. Organ charges up to £10,000, depending on size.

The rumbustious Ruskin Spear, now aged 70, said: "I recently did a whole series of sittings and at one time seemed to be the court painter of Cambridge. Then one day did a doctor and a whole string of them turned up."

"But you cannot paint to their orders. They put themselves in your hands, the only problem is if you do a picture they are not happy about."

Michael Noakes, a member of the RSPP, who painted Robert Morley's portrait and is now doing a huge study of the Queen Mother, never shows his pictures to his subjects before he is satisfied. He had one nightmare canvas that would not come right.

It was Donald Sinclair, James Herriot's partner in his veterinary practice — the real life of a good family doctor, who must go down well at Buckingham Palace with the corgis snapping at his heels.

"Except for the Royal Family I prefer to do most of my painting here and people are quite good about coming. I do a few more and was not satisfied with them. In the end I did eighteen versions over four and a half years."

"I am now very superstitious about it and often make sure I have the same table for breakfast or go to bed at exactly a certain time because it is so exhilarating when things are going well."

Portrait sittings are like ready-made psychotherapy, with the sitter being the focus of every brush stroke.

Lord Denning used to arrive



Robert Morley as painted by Noakes: "I so love sitting still while other people work"

The number of sittings can vary from about six, even fewer for royal subjects, to 50 two-hour sessions for portraits by Sir William Coldstream. "I thought it was marvellous," said Robert Morley. "I do so love sitting still while other people work."

Noakes is successful. He lives in a rambling St John's Wood house with "toward" Lear prints in the hall and a platinum disc of Frank Sinatra record in the lavatory, signed by Sinatra himself. Noakes did the portrait for the record sleeve. There are thousands of books in the house and he sends his two sons to Eton — his daughter is at Bristol University.

Aged 48, he has kindly eyes and the professional manner of a good family doctor, which must go down well at Buckingham Palace with the corgis snapping at his heels.

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The league leaders

The top 10 portrait artists (compiled by the National Portrait Gallery) — art for art's sake.

Francis Bacon
David Hockney
Lucien Freud
Bryan Organ
Rodrigo Moynihan
Lawrence Gowing
Sir William Coldstream
Peter Blake
Carol Weight
Ruskin Spear

The top 10 professional portrait painters.

Norman Heppel
June Mendoza
Michael Noakes
David Peole
John Wain
Leonard Boden
Carlos Sancha
George Bruce
Bryan Organ
Ruskin Spear
(Spear is involved with teaching as well as painting)

Good newcomers like 21-year-old Emma Sergeant, who has just won the National Portrait Award worth £5,000, rely on prizes and painting pub signs to get by. "I am very big in the Tolly Cobbold area of Essex," she said.

"It is much better having a portrait painted than a photograph, which is a waste of good sketching time and anyway all those society photographers look so consipated."

Paul Pickering

A swipe at spendthrift councils

Leslie Chapman, the former civil servant whose first book *You Disobedient Servant* caused a storm of controversy three years ago when it revealed massive and unnecessary waste in the Civil Service, is about to launch a new crusading consumer watchdog organization to seek out and eliminate bureaucratic waste.

It is intended that Stop Waste in Public Expenditure, or *Swipe* as it will no doubt come to be known, will offer public authorities like the nationalized industries or local councils cost-cutting investigation services on a satisfaction or money-back basis.

Thus, Chapman told me from his home in Wales over the weekend if *Swipe* doesn't find enough savings to pay for the cost of a particular investigation then the client won't be required to pay for anything.

At the moment *Swipe* is being considered for charity status by the charity commissioners. A January launch is expected and funds initially will be drawn from the royalties of Chapman's new book *Waste Away*, which Chatto and Windus expect to publish in April.

Waste Away, which is partly based on Chapman's experience of being on the boards of London Transport and of talking to local authorities and public sector managers, advances the argu-

ments of his earlier book and suggests ways in which members of the public can attempt to eliminate inefficiency and cut through bureaucratic red tape.

Chapman, aged 62, formerly a regional director in the Department of the Environment, fervently believes that public authorities need to be goaded into putting their houses in order. "I think," he says, "we could probably do with half a dozen Ralph Nader figures."

Caught in the Budd

Students at the London Business School appear to have taken their revenge on Dr Alan Budd, the economist whose lectures they claimed earlier this month were diatribes about the national account and of no assistance whatever to their macro-economics examinations. Dr Budd, director of the school's Centre of Economic Forecasting — and the man who recently admitted that his monetarist advice to the Prime Minister was wrong — was featured twice in the students' end-of-term comedy revue.

In the first, a cowboy and Indian sketch, he was portrayed as a misguided Indian forecaster called Morning Budd. The second lecture, which led to disaffected students organizing a petition of a tape recording of the man himself, with a yawning student miming the words and feigning ennui. Dr Budd claims that macro-economics bores him and repeatedly tells students that the national account is far more interesting.

THE TIMES DIARY



It was like old boys' day as General Franco's balding, paunchy, hand-picked henchmen gathered in Madrid to talk about old times and to collect one another's signatures on copies of their mutual literary effort, Franco Seen By His Ministers.

The gathering, featuring a banquet and unabashed pro-Franco speeches, was organized by Señor Jose Manuel Lara, one of Spain's most successful publishers, who recently admitted that books about the late dictator are among the best money-makers.

Love-one I hear that French philosophy and American psychoanalysis are in a head-long clash. Bruno Bettelheim, world famous for his work on infant psychosis and in particular his success in getting autistic children to make relationships, has refused to write the preface to an American edition of a French bestseller on maternal love.

Or rather the lack of it. The theme of the book, *L'Amour en plus*, is that maternal love is not innate, but the product of religious and moral prescription and social forces. Three hundred years ago it did not exist, says the author Elizabeth Badinter, who is a lecturer of philosophy. The book's controversial

Of the former members of the Generalissimo's various governments who are still alive and working to contribute to the work 39 responded, and 33 attended the presentation: banquet. The 33, brought together for the first time, included members of every Franco cabinet from 1938 during the Spanish Civil War until 1975, when Franco died.

By an ironic coincidence, the date chosen for the alumni assembly was the fifth anniversary of the referendum by which the Spanish people gave the go-ahead for a political reform that dismantled the structure of the Franco regime and installed in its place a constitutional monarchy.

message has been welcomed by readers worldwide. It has been translated into 15 languages. But the Americans will have to wait until someone else has been found to preface it. Bettelheim is adamant that to attack the concept of instinctive maternal love is to attack the one thing which prevents mothers destroying their children.

Jangle bells What Christmas presents has the Prime Minister asked for this year? I remain uncertain. But my spooked Denis Thatcher at the weekend this week-end purchased Anthony Sampson's controversial inspection of international banking *The Moneylenders*, and Robert Lacey's history of the Saudi royal family, *The Kingdom*.



Michael Winner: North to a 'white hell'

Winner takes all

A moving tale of human endurance in the white wilderness of the north reaches me from film director Michael Winner who staggered home through the snow to London last week from Malpas in Cheshire after appearing on the radio programme *Any Questions*.

Winner, you will recall from an earlier story in the diary, was persuaded by a Land Rover after deciding to risk neither his Rolls-Royce nor his Ferrari on the trek north.

Unhappily the Land Rover never arrived to pick him up so Winner ordered his chauffeur to drive the Rolls to Broadcasting House in London where he hoped to pick up a lift from his fellow panelists Gwyneth Dunwoody, Lord Scanlon and David Jacobs. A convoy was formed and the journey proceeded in misery, with only Jacobs, who clutched a bottle of scotch most of the way,

apparently at peace, until they hit fog after leaving the M6, that is — forcing him to stagger like Captain Oates on foot into the blizzard, the cars following.

The party made it to Malpas with only minutes to spare before the start of the broadcast.

Winner, who decided to stay for the weekend, waved goodbye to his colleagues as they headed south after the programme. When I spoke to him he was still uncertain whether they would ever be seen again.

Deep thought Ravi Shankar, the Indian musician who became an improbable international celebrity because of the adulation of a certain Liverpudlian quartet, is musing deeply these days on the founder of modern India.

Shankar is working on a score for Gandhi Sir Richard Attenborough's \$22m movie of that ilk, which is being seen as the great white hope of the British film industry in the coming year. He is due to record the sound track next month and it will doubtless appear as a spin-off disc when the movie comes to town.

In the meantime, Shankar gives a sneak preview in a raga called *Homage to Mahatma Gandhi* to be released next month by Deutsche Grammophon. This, apparently, is a piece he composed spontaneously in February, 1948, some days after Gandhi's assassination. Shankar, I understand, was sitting in an All India Radio studio in Bombay tuning up his sitar for a live recital when a producer asked him to play

something in honour of the fallen leader. Without further ado, Shankar launched into this 24-minute homage an instant inspiration strummed in a key that lies between C sharp and D (if you can play it on your piano, call a tuner immediately) symbolizing the Mahatma's triumph over the forces of evil.

Quiz answers

1. The British skier, Konrad Bartelski, unexpectedly came second in the world cup downhill race.
2. Habitat and Mothercare are merging in a £110m deal.
3. The Queen and her party spent seven hours in a Corfu hotel when they were stranded in a snow storm on their way back to Windsor.
4. Women on a Tory club outing danced to a raga called *Homage to Mahatma Gandhi* by Ravi Shankar.
5. Sir Adrian Boult formally announced his retirement from conducting at the age of 92.
6. Alfa Romeo is planning to cease production for four months.
7. A Law Commission report published last week said that the law on divorce should state clearly that the overriding obligation was to provide financially for any children.
8. The unemployed are now living at a lower level than at any time since 1971, according to Social Security Statistics 1981.
9. One aspect of Mr Tebbit's training programme announced last week was that youngsters who "unreasonably refused a suitable training place" would have their supplementary benefits reduced.
10. The first test-tube twins to be conceived on the NHS are due to be born at the Royal Free Hospital next week.
11. President Reagan telephoned the Pope to express his concern about events in Poland.
12. Dame Janet Baker gave her last performance at Covent Garden.

Michael Horsnell

سكان الامم



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WHO'S FOR REVOLUTION?

Labour's civil war has now developed into a struggle of principle that goes well beyond any contest for position or influence. The most revealing feature of this battle for the deputy leadership was not that Mr. Healey won. It was that Mr. Silkin stood. He did so not because many people thought he would be the best choice, but because a group of traditional left-wingers were determined to have another left-winger apart from Mr. Benn for whom they could vote on the first ballot. Mr. Silkin was the only choice for this role, but the group was desperate to put up some reasonably credible figure. Their desperation was an indication that the conflict within the party was no longer the old, familiar struggle between left and right. It had also become a battle, if anything even more bitter, between left and left. That has been confirmed by the latest upsurge of strife.

One of the leading members of this group of traditional left-wingers was Mr. Neil Kinnock. He voted for Mr. Silkin on the first ballot and abstained on the second rather than support Mr. Benn. He has since committed the ever worse sin in the eyes of the hard left, of backing Mr. Foot on the National Executive Committee over both the rejection of Mr. Tatchell as prospective candidate for Bermondsey and over the forthcoming inquiry into the Militant Tendency.

This has exposed Mr. Kinnock to vitriolic criticism in his own constituency party and elsewhere in the Labour movement. He is attacked as a traitor to that section of the party and to the causes that he previously espoused. But Mr. Kinnock has not in fact changed his position on any major issue. He still wants Britain to leave the European Community, he remains a unilateral nuclear disarmament, he favours a large extension of public ownership, and he would like to get rid of fee-

paying schools. On all the principal questions that disturb the party he is on the side of the left, yet this is not enough to save him from being vilified by the hard left.

The reason is simple. It is not that Mr. Kinnock has shifted his ground on policy. It is that the dispute is no longer principally about policy. Indeed, it is remarkable how much of the left's policy even the right are prepared now to swallow, or at least to put to one side of their mouth. The argument over the EEC does not now concentrate on the principle of membership; it is over whether the decision to withdraw should first be put to another referendum. The critical issue of unilateralism may be on the way to being blurred in a fog of hopeful rhetoric about the beckoning prospects of large-scale negotiated disarmament.

The case for further considerable extensions of public ownership is now widely accepted throughout the party. This is partly obscured by the fact that the Social Democrats prefer not to fiddle with the frontiers between the public and private sectors; and there is a general, if mistaken, assumption that those right-wingers who remain in the Labour Party would like to follow the same course. But that is not so. The debate over the public sector is now for the most part concerned only with the scale and pace of its enlargement, over compensation — and over the methods by which policy goals are to be achieved.

It is this question of method, that is now the principal dividing line within the party. Is Labour to be a party devoted to parliamentary democracy? Or is it prepared to seek power by other means? It is because he remains a parliamentary democrat that Mr. Kinnock has been outraged by the hard left, and is in turn abused by them.

Mr. Benn sometimes speaks as if both courses are equally enshrined in Labour tradition. He invokes the name of the suffragettes and of others who pursued the path of extra-parliamentary protest to secure their objectives. But there is a world of difference between those who protest in order to participate in parliamentary democracy, and those who scorn parliamentary democracy because they think they see a more direct route to power. Britain is now a parliamentary democracy, with full adult suffrage, as it was not in the days of the suffragettes, and it is only those who do not respect Parliament who will feel any need to bypass it today.

It is true that throughout the history of the Labour movement there has been tension at recurring intervals between those who believe in achieving their purposes through Parliament and those who favour other means, principally industrial action. On all sides the right to protest is accepted. So too is the right to industrial action. The dividing line is crossed when these activities are envisaged either as a substitute for Parliament or as taking priority over Parliament. That is the course of revolution.

At every critical juncture in its history up to now it has been the advocates of the parliamentary road who have won the battle in the Labour Party. Had they not done so Labour would never have been acceptable as a governing party because the British are not a revolutionary people. They may become very irritated with Parliament, but they do not want to replace it.

It is this battle of political principle that is being waged once again. It divides left from left because it goes deeper than any dispute on policy. It relates to the kind of country that Britain should be, and if Labour is not seen to answer this question in the way that accords with all British instincts and traditions the party will never govern this country again.

BRAVE MEN OF THE SEA

They are a special breed of men, who go out in boats when the seas are angriest, and willingly place their lives at risk so that the lives of others, perhaps less worthy, may be saved. There is no contract of employment that obliges them to venture out to danger when all the rest of us run inside to comfort and safety. There is no fortune to be made in saving lives — the pay, if it can be called that, without ridicule, is £3 each time they turn out, and £1 an hour above the first hour at sea. Their only master is the call of duty to their fellow men and women in distress.

In obeying that call the lifeboatmen, since the founding of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1824, have saved more than 100,000 lives. Every year now, a thousand seafarers owe their

lives to the men in boats. But too often, some of the men whose gallantry and selflessness contribute to that achievement perish themselves. The boats they have are now of the most modern, with self-righting mechanisms which would normally see them through all weathers without capsizing. Yet what the weekend's tragedy demonstrates once again is that the sea can never become a totally safe place. With all the modern techniques at their disposal, the men who put to sea to save others, without question or doubt, do so in jeopardy of life, as those first lifeboatmen did more than 150 years ago.

The lifeboat service is a remarkable institution, too often taken for granted. It is not, as in other countries, part of the navy or the

coastguards or any other government agency. It is unique among British rescue services, too. Members of helicopter rescue teams yield to none in courage and heroic endeavour, but they perform their feats as part of their job. So do many mountain rescue teams, though there is a tradition of voluntary work as well. All the lifeboatmen are volunteers in every sense of the word. The RNLI is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. Not a penny piece comes from government. The taxpayer pays nothing but what he contributes of his own good will. That the result is a rescue service which stands second to none in the world is something for which Britain should be proud, and should all the more mourn those who have given their lives this weekend.

MPs and industry

From the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry Sir, The Confederation of British Industry sympathises with Mr. Nicholas Mendes (December 11) in his desire to achieve a better understanding of industry by members of Parliament. But we do not agree with his suggestion that the CBI should sponsor MPs in the same way as trade unions. The CBI cannot help but be a political organisation in that its main function is to represent the views of industry and commerce to Government, Parliament and the nation at large. But it is a non-party political organisation. Moreover, we believe that it is the duty of MPs to represent the interests of all their constituents, not just those of local business or the trade unions. Indeed, it would be a sorry day for Britain and for democracy if Parliament were merely to become a talking-shop for vested interests.

It is, of course, an advantage for MPs to have some understanding of how businesses operate. That is why the CBI has given its support to the Industry and Parliament Trust, which offers MPs of all parties a chance to gain direct experience of business by working for a short period in one or more member companies.

While the CBI is inevitably seen by some people as a counterweight to the TUC and the trade unions, it does not model its activities on what they do. We seek to promote the interests of trade and industry by sensible and logical discussion and by putting forward well-researched policies which we believe to be in the best interests of all the people of Britain. It is an essential part of our case that the standard of living of everyone in the country depends on the wealth which trade and industry create. Employment prospects, whether in the public or private sector, ultimately depend on the ability of industry

and commerce to manufacture and sell products and services which people want to buy at prices they are prepared to pay. When our products are inadequate, our costs uncompetitive, and our delivery unreliable, we lose business to our competitors. Excessive pay settlements and poor productivity worsen the ability of companies to compete and to earn profits. Without profits there is no investment, and without investment there can be no new jobs.

The CBI believes it has a duty to ensure that MPs understand this basic message. Equally, we believe we have a duty to inform them of the deleterious effects of ill-considered legislation and bureaucratic incompetence. We have been warning politicians of all political parties for many months now that the costs imposed on trade and industry by central and local government, burdens like the National Insurance surcharge and local rates, are becoming too heavy for many to survive. Yours faithfully, TERRY BECKETT, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, WC1, December 14.

Industrial training

From Dr J. C. Gibbins Sir, Your report (November 27, page 1) on the lack of people with formal skills in the industry of this country would have been timely at any point in the last three hundred years; it is particularly so at the moment. We have had much discussion of a slight fall in the number of university graduates of engineers, but the fall in the number of those being trained to lesser formal qualifications is, in comparison, appalling. I know that polytechnics have, particularly in this academic year, found considerable difficulty in obtaining industrial

training for those on higher diploma and certificate courses in engineering. I have been told recently that in one country area in this part of the country the number of new entrants to apprenticeship training has dropped this year to 150 from the 450 of the previous year. I do not understand how a Parliament, that in general looks forward to a recovery of industry, cannot recognize that, because there is a time lag of some three years, now is the time to expand training for formal qualifications and certainly not to reduce it.

I say that this is a matter for Parliament in general simply because our shortage of formal skills is of such long existence. To show this, I quote from John Wilkins who wrote, in 1648: "Reasons had observed, that the reason why Germany hath been so eminent for mechanical inventions is because there have been public lectures of this kind instituted amongst them, and these not only in the learned languages, but also in the vulgar tongue, for the capacity of every unlettered ingenious Artificer." It is a reflection on the competence of Government over the last 300 years that despite continual prompting, particularly starting from the Prince Consort in the last century, so very little has been done.

If Parliament really wish to process they might do so with profit around the Albert Memorial and thereby read the four topics set out at its corners that represent those that Prince Albert so long ago, partly from his knowledge of German prosperity, urged upon this country as so worthy of its attention: that is, engineering, commerce, manufactures, agriculture. Yours sincerely, J. C. GIBBINS, Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool.

David Wood is indisposed

Cold comfort in West Country

From Miss Elizabeth Frank Sir, I would like to draw attention to the fact that many of us in the West Country who spent four days without electricity and water last week have now suffered a further breakdown. In below-freezing temperatures last week it was a disaster for hundreds of old people, market gardeners and some farmers, to mention a few.

It is quite obvious to everyone here that conditions are chaotic and that Southern Electricity have been unable to cope with the situation. Why was it not declared a disaster area at the start and engineers from other unaffected areas brought in to help? In an area where the Army and naval forces are very prominent, why not call in the highly qualified engineers from both the Services?

One would hope that there will be a government inquiry at the earliest opportunity, before it all happens again with the next heavy fall of snow. Yours sincerely, ELIZABETH FRANK, Woodland House, Woodland, Blandford Forum, Dorset, December 20.

From Lady Jameson Sir, I have been four days without electricity; my deep-freeze is awash; I have a live cable across my drive which opens on to a busy road; my temper (and sense of humour) is at a low ebb. To add to my annoyance a man has just called to read the meter!

Every day I read in your excellent newspaper of growing unemployment. Why, repeat why, cannot more men (or women) be taken off costly national assistance and given a good job of work in helping the long-suffering public who have been urged to "go electric" and have none? Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH M. JAMESON, 5 Jam, near Marlborough, Wiltshire, December 17.

From Mr David Green Sir, We are now starting our fifth day without the public electricity supply.

May I suggest that where the system cannot afford a supply that is secured against long backlogs, the cost at least contribute to the cost of the array of standby equipment which the exigencies of survival predicate — and give us a lower tariff?

Yours impatiently, DAVID GREEN, Rhyd yr Harding, Castle Morris, Nr Haverfordwest, Dyfed, December 17.

China's world role

From Mr John Howkins Sir, I was interested by the assertion in your leader (December 11) that China's position is that she is "in no sense a third super-power but a member of the developing world". Surely the fascination of China's position is that she intends to be both. It is the key to her role in the United Nations and in other intergovernmental organisations, and her activities in south-east Asia and throughout the Pacific. Yours faithfully, JOHN HOWKINS, 14 Balliol Road, W10, December 17.

Faithful memory

From Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative) Sir, We sent troops to the American commemoration of Yorktown. We celebrated the US Bicentennial with a special postage stamp.

At this important time in the history of British North America might not another postage stamp be issued to honour the United Empire Loyalists who, about 200 years ago, put honour before personal allegiance? Before a worldly wealth in order to live under the King? Some went to the Caribbean, 1,000 or so to Canada.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON, House of Commons, December 17.

More or less

From Mr Stephen Corrin Sir, Genesis IV, quoted by Mr Jeremy Lee-Brown (December 12), has a time-honoured rabbinical exposition (Genesis Rabba) which holds that a twin sister was born with Cain, and likewise with Abel. Women were, therefore, not then in a minority. This, of course, makes sense in the light of verse 17, Genesis IV, where we read that "Cain knew his wife". Who could she have been other than his own sibling?

Yours sincerely, STEPHEN CORRIN, 10 Russell Gardens, NW11, December 12.

Born to succeed

From Lord Stanley of Alderley Sir, If the principle that the eldest child, regardless of sex, should succeed to the Throne applies, then presumably it should also apply to the inheritance of titles. The aristocracy have a craving to marry amongst themselves surely this will, in a relatively short time, solve the problem of the hereditary element in the House of Lords? Yours, so far, STANLEY OF ALDERLEY (or EDDISBURY, or SHEFFIELD), House of Lords, December 11.

Accounts of the origin of matter

From the President of the Royal Society

Sir, Your correspondent Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe (December 15) says that "The idea that life was put together by random shuffling of constituent molecules can be shown (in the words of Sir Fred Hoyle) to be as ridiculous and improbable as the proposition that a tornado blowing through a junkyard may assemble a Boeing 747." He refers presumably to a calculation on page 24 of the book *Evolution from Space* by Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe, which puts the chance of a natural origin on Earth of living matter as one in 10 raised to the power of 40,000.

When I first saw a mention of this calculation (in the article of September 7 by your Religious Affairs Correspondent), I bought the book in the hope of finding that the distinguished authors had made some progress, albeit of a negative kind, on the problem of the origin of life. What I did find was so misleading that I felt obliged to mention it in my anniversary address to the Royal Society at the end of last month. I said:

"This can be dismissed quickly. 10^{40,000} is an estimate of the chance that 2,000 enzyme molecules will be formed simultaneously from their component amino acids on a single specified occasion."

The relevant thing however is the chance of some far simpler self-replicating system, capable of development by natural selection, being formed at any place on the Earth's surface, at any time within a period of the order of 10 years. The expectation of such events is wildly uncertain since we know neither the nature of the hypothetical self-replicating system nor the composition of the "primordial soup", but it is not obviously less than unity.

The question of the way in which life originated is just as wide open as it was before Hoyle and Wickramasinghe's calculation.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW HUXLEY, Department of Physiology, University College London, Gower Street, W1, December 15.

From Professor Sir Brian Pippard, FRS

Sir, Professor Thoday's admirable lucid letter (December 12) prompts me as a physicist, though not one of the sort he refers to, to expand on his conception which surely is not novel, yet should be deployed at times like this, to help reconcile to Darwinism some of its religious opponents.

The way in which a simple system or organism develops is normally far from smooth, involving critical points (bifurcations or catastrophes) where a minute step initiates a major

change. Thus water as it is cooled begins to freeze at a certain temperature, never before that temperature is reached, however slow the cooling rate.

Unnumerable and immensely varied parallels are to be found in every branch of science. One should not be surprised then if evolution turns out to proceed in steps, perhaps as certain critical mutations, small in themselves, pave the way for a rapid sequence of successive mutations by making the genetic material more susceptible to mutagens. It would indeed be more surprising if everything happened smoothly.

Furthermore, just as ice has properties absent in water, so it is possible to envisage that at certain points in the development of an organism radically new characteristics emerge or begin to emerge. It is not necessary to suppose that a characteristic was imperceptibly present at an earlier stage and gradually grew perceptible. Rather we should be able, given enough specimens from a complete evolutionary chain, to pick out the critical point dividing those species that possessed it from those that did not.

We may find it hard to define self-awareness but we recognize it, and I think must accept that it is something a creature either does or does not possess; it belongs in the category of properties that cannot but make their appearance at a critical point.

And here, hesitantly, I touch on the matter of religion. Having become aware of ourselves and our surroundings may we not later, in the course of evolving further complexities, have suddenly acquired yet another sense, the ability to apprehend and even occasionally to make tenuous contact with the source of all things? If this is what happened there was a perfectly definite moment at which the critical mutation occurred in a single individual and, to use the biblical description, "God breathed in his nostrils the spirit of life; and man became a living soul."

I cannot, with so many devout believers among my friends, deny the truth of their experience of God simply because I have not shared it myself, and I should like to think that my naive but scientifically phrased picture describes the mechanism by which it came about — an evolutionary mechanism that has led in man alone to a unique sense of the divine, perhaps even an immortal soul. But on the all-important subject of immortality I am all-ignorant.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN PIPPARD, 30 Porson Road, Cambridge, December 14.

Child protection

From the Chairman of Hammer-smith Juvenile Court

Sir, Your correspondents today (December 15) refer to sharing the responsibility with the courts. The members of the Inner London Juvenile Court panel are acutely conscious of that responsibility when care cases come before us.

The conflict of interest that can arise was highlighted by the case referred to earlier by Mr Briggs (December 3). In that case a lawyer representing the child would not feel able to support a parent who is fighting to retain the care of her child.

However, in order that justice may be seen to be done it is surely essential that everyone shall be a party to the proceed-

ings. The parent, in law, is not, would not appear to have the right to cross-examine witnesses, nor is any evidence he may give or call subject to cross-examination. His right is restricted to giving evidence to rebut any allegations made against him after all the other evidence has been heard.

While the child is entitled to legal aid the parent is not; this creates an even more pressing issue, whether parents are mentally ill or not, they cannot rationally present their own case when it is for them an occasion of such emotional turmoil. I strongly urge the Government to remedy this omission with all possible speed.

Yours faithfully, G. GODFREY-ISAACS, 163A Seymour Place, W1.

Positive discrimination

From Mr R. A. Bruce

Sir, Professor Dworkin suggests (future, December 12) that, in the interests of racial harmony, black students should receive a "head start" in the contest for university places. Instead of the present system, which applicants must do well in exams as preferred over less clever applicants, he thinks that "it might be wiser to adopt slightly more complex standards that aim at a somewhat wider goal of racial balance as well as intelligence or skill" (my italics).

I take this to mean that, if the percentage of black students reading, say, medicine is found to be appreciably below the percentage of blacks in the population as a whole, then the deficiency should be made good by lowering the entry standards to medical schools, "in respect of black students only".

This of course would be only a beginning. There is little point in admitting students to a six-years' course which they are unlikely to finish, so that the pass standards of all the professional medical examinations, including finals, would also have to be lowered. It follows that the students who eventually graduate from such a course will, on average, be less

intelligent and less skilled than their predecessors. That their racial balance, I think, be small consolation to their future patients.

Professor Dworkin goes on to say that this new type of exam would be no more unfair, from the point of view of failed applicants, than the present "intellectual" exams. In my opinion, it would be far more unfair.

At present, candidates who fail the traditional exams because of their proved deficiency in intelligence or skill have no legitimate grievance against the exam system itself and accept its verdict without public protest. But white candidates of the future, who fail the new type of exams solely because of the colour of their skins (or who think as many of them will that they have failed for that reason) are liable to protest volubly, and possibly violently, against the palpable injustice of the system. To the detriment of that racial harmony which the misguided sponsors of the system had hoped to establish.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, R. A. BRUCE, 118 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen, December 13.

Constituency changes

From Mr Ian Harvey

Sir, The Secretary to the Boundary Commission has set out very clearly (December 14) the way in which the commission functions and the problems with which it is confronted. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the way in which the proceedings were conducted in the case of Westminster, where it is proposed to reduce the number of constituencies from three to two.

It is encouraging to note that Mr Barnes mentions the end of 1982 as a date for the completion of the work, albeit the earliest possible. After that the recommendations have to go to the Home Secretary and from him to Parliament. At least three months should be allowed for that. Some

may feel that that is an optimistic assessment.

It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the Government may decide to go to the country in 1983. If that were to happen, approval to the Boundary Commission's proposals until, say, April, 1983, this would place constituency associations involved, as we are, in a difficult position with regard to their own reorganisation. It is therefore imperative that the matter be settled by January, 1983. If necessary the Government should provide additional staff to assist the commission.

Yours truly, IAN HARVEY, Chairman, Paddington Conservative Association, Conservative Centre, 52 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2, December 15.

Evidence on art sales premium

From the Chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers

Sir, Mr David Mason (December 19) really should get his facts right before launching into another of his diatribes.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, did not make two previous attempts to investigate the auctioneers' over alleged collusion. He merely wrote and asked them if they had been in collusion and readily accepted their reply that they hadn't. The OFT then sat back while the Society of London Art Dealers and the British Antique Dealers' Association conducted their own investigation.

The two associations spent a great deal of time and money gathering their evidence and I shall certainly want to consult all those who subscribed, this being the entire membership, before deciding what to do with it. One thing is certain, and that is that we will not be handing over any evidence out of gratuitous spite.

Mr Mason refers to Geraldine Norman's penetrating article (December 17), in which she

concludes: "With hindsight one can say that the dealers should have put their backs into the 1975 boycott; they should not have brought the case; they should not have settled; and they should have handed over their evidence to the OFT when it was requested. More importantly, perhaps, the auctioneers should not have introduced the auction premium."

We by and large agree, but must add that we were being advised it would probably have proved illegal to pursue the 1975 boycott. We brought the case on moral as much as legal grounds in order to persuade the auctioneers to abolish the premium. We settled chiefly because costs escalated to an estimated £600,000, a figure beyond the total of our promissory notes; and finally we requested a delay in handing over our evidence to the OFT because we wanted to honour the spirit, as well as the letter, of the settlement, something Sotheby's did not see fit to do.

At the time of writing we are still awaiting Christie's response, but I must add that the public interest is our interest and we will not need the support of the public's representatives in Parliament to rid us of the auction premium.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BASKETT, Chairman, The Society of London Art Dealers, 173 New Bond Street, W1, December 18.

Test-tube births

From Mrs Hilary Twigg

Sir, Your newspaper carried (December 14) the first report of in-vitro fertilization (the so-called "test-tube baby" technique) resulting in twin pregnancy at the Royal Free (NHS) Hospital in London.

Your article stated that this achievement was "financed almost entirely by the National Health Service as part of the hospital's normal work". We would like to correct any impression that this relatively new technique is easily possible utilizing NHS resources. In fact, the NHS is only able to contribute basic facilities such as those available for other methods of infertility treatment: this does not include specialized equipment or staffing, finance for which must often be raised from external sources.

Our charity was formed a year ago specifically to help provide such additional funds, and we have already contributed in some measure to Professor Craft's research at the Royal Free Hospital.

We believe that research in this field should be expanded in the state sector, to enable the majority of suitable couples to benefit. In the foreseeable future, however, we see no way in which NHS units will be in a position to offer sophisticated techniques without external financial support.

Yours faithfully, HILARY TWIGG, Honorary Secretary, Infertility Society and Treatment, 190 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6, December 15.

Rome and Canterbury

From Mr C. H. Sisson

Sir, The Roman Catholic Chaplain of the University of London proposed (December 16) a deal between Rome and Canterbury. Rome to allow married priests and Canterbury to give up the Establishment.

It is to be observed that he sees this as a swap between clerics. Constitutional matters cannot be so disposed of.

Yours faithfully, C. H. SISSON, Moorfield Cottage, The Hill, Langport, Somerset, December 16.

Taking the long view

From Mr Charles Harrison-Wallace

Sir, Does Anthony Burgess (feature, December 14) really believe El Greco painted elongated figures because he was an astigmat? Had he been attempting to reproduce what he saw, his depictions would of course have appeared perfectly normal to other people. Otherwise they would have been abnormal to him also; which, presumably, they were.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES HARRISON-WALLACE, 35 St George Street, Hanover Square, W1, December 15.

Silence a keynote of pilgrimage for the young

joined the AP at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1936. After working in offices in Philadelphia and Washington, he transferred to Frankfurt, West Germany, in 1940.

He became AP correspondent in Berlin in 1951 and was appointed head of the Stockholm bureau in 1956, and in 1958, head of Scandinavian Service. He transferred to London in 1960, was a war correspondent in Vietnam in 1965-66, and then returned to London before going to Seattle in 1972. He retired in 1973.

Needle is survived by his wife, Ruth, of Sarasota, Florida, and two sons.

GREECE

The Socialist victory in the recent general elections confirmed that democracy works smoothly in Greece, a country where the succession of political parties in power has rarely been uneventful. And, by offering to the Greek left its first opportunity to show its worth, it also gave the right time to expiate the hubris of complacency.

The future of Greek democracy would be well assured if political change can work also in reverse just as smoothly when the time comes. In any event, there is bound to be more democracy all round, perhaps not so much for reasons of principle, but of self-defence, as governments come to realize that they will not stay in power forever.

Already, in the first two months in office, the Socialists of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, have taken steps to eliminate discrimination against the left, fossilized in legislation used by the right to force people into compliance by judging them and their needs according to their real or assumed political beliefs.

If the scales are now tipping in the opposite direction, this is understandable in the early stages of so momentous a change in government. Provided, of course, that it does not get out of control.

The change of the guard in the administration, of course, was massive and very thorough. One assumes that the Government is trying to protect its policies from internal sabotage or trusted officials; but this has slowed down the pace of adaptation, particularly as none of the 40-odd ministers and undersecretaries (except for the Prime Minister himself) has any previous ministerial experience.

The feeling, in fact, is that some of the newcomers are just standing perplexed and overawed by the enormity of the problems inherited — problems which range from rampant inflation to acute air pollution in Athens, and from the crippling official bureaucracy to an almost primitive health system.

It is on this inadequate infrastructure that Mr Papandreu's Socialist Government has set out to implement a programme of ambitious but still vaguely defined reforms. The 71-page statement of policy that Mr Papandreu read in Parliament four weeks ago sounded more like his vision of a better future than a description of how he plans to get there.

What is perhaps confusing is that the line between the strategic objectives of the Greek Socialists and their intermediate targets, is getting blurred. The long-term outlook in foreign affairs, for instance, is for a drastic change in the traditional pro-western orientation of Greece. The current programme, however, implies a willingness for compromise involving looser links with the West and its props, Nato, the EEC, and the Americans.

At home the emphasis is on a self-sustained economy to be planned with the active

participation of the people. This would be facilitated by drastic decentralization, the full control of the sources of credit, the nationalization of big industries, and the creation of farmers' co-operatives. Local government and trade unions will play a major role in these developments, being, according to this socialist theory, together with Parliament, the three pillars of democracy.

The Government has promised to produce soon the five-year economic plan for 1982-87, but it has yet to unveil its intentions for the coming year. This lack of perspective, two months after the Socialist takeover has prolonged agonizing uncertainty and slowed down economic activity to bare essentials.

These hesitations, however, may be well-intentioned. Greece, after all, is a country that has paid dearly for hastily drawn or half-baked economic measures which were often scrapped soon after being applied. So for the time being, Greek businessmen have become avid readers of the news from Socialist France in the hope of gaining some insight as to what by osmosis, into the intentions of the Greek Socialists.

Enter 'green guards'

Some opposition critics assert that the sluggishness may also be due to the practice of collective decision-making introduced by the new Government. Actually, decisions are now supposed to be taken jointly by the minister, the under-secretary, and the secretary-general (also a political appointment), after consultation with the party's parliamentary liaison men assigned to that department.

These critics also speak of party stalwarts (whom they have branded "green guards" after the party's symbolic colour) stationed in Government departments and informally exercising some sort of supervisory role on behalf of the party's Marxist hard core.

These Marxists are said to be trying to push through the transition to socialism faster than Mr Papandreu would consider it prudent to move. Their argument, which seems to reflect the Communist Party's thinking, is that if the Socialists hesitate they will be toppled in the manner of Chile's Salvador Allende, or corrupted into conformism by the very "system" they are vowed to dismantle.

With the support of its 172 deputies in a Parliament of 300, the Socialist Government has little to fear during its four-year tenure, except its own mistakes. The Communists are too pleased over the fall of the right wing and too weak in Parliament (13 deputies in all) to cause anxiety. Their nuisance value relies exclusively on their control of the more militant labour unions.

The main opposition party, the conservative New Democracy, having overcome its leadership crisis by choosing the dynamic ex-defence Minister, Mr Evangelos Averoff to lead it, it is still groping for its ideological identity, and although with 112 deputies it is the strongest ever opposition in the Greek Parliament, it is not a threat to the ruling Socialists.

The threat of a military coup to deflect Greece from its democratic course is no longer discussed here as a serious possibility. Mr Papandreu, by taking personal charge of the Defence Ministry, has handled the transition there remarkably well. Some of his more patriotic foreign policy pronouncements are known to have flattered the susceptibilities of the military. And then there is President Karamanlis, whose presence at the top is seen by many Greeks as a guarantee of normality.

Recently Mr Papandreu announced hefty housing allowances to all officers and NCOs in the armed forces, which puts them one step ahead of all civil servants when salaries become linked on January 1. With the Prime Minister have the same success when it comes to renewing the leadership of the armed forces, which is said to be due next month.

If there is a threat to Mr Papandreu's socialist regime, it comes from a possible disenchantment of those who turned to his party with expectations as high as the party's rising green sun. Mr Papandreu, with repeated warnings, tries to discourage these speculations. "We are not miracle workers," he would say, but in vain. The expectations are, almost palpably, there.

Mr Papandreu breaking the mould!

The average Greek yearned for a change of faces and methods on the political scene. Having secured his quantitative happiness, he has a desperate yearning for improved quality of life — for an end to pollution, a check on inflation, and the uprooting of some of the worst bureaucratic practices. If the new administration does not want disillusionment to creep in it will have to produce at least some

progress by next spring. Already Mr Papandreu's tough talk on the external scene has won him unanimous applause at home. It is common knowledge that the views of President Karamanlis and Mr Papandreu do not coincide on some crucial issues, such as the country's general foreign orientation, its place in Europe and Nato.

Mr Karamanlis's popularity is still very wide. Although he is the founder of the Conservative Party now in opposition, since his election by Parliament as head of the state he has shown commendable impartiality.

The President's constitutional prerogatives give him no power to influence the day-to-day course of Government business. But if a major issue emerged, affecting fundamental national issues, a total exit from Nato, for instance, or from the European Community, he would react.

Mr Papandreu has indicated that if he cannot get satisfactory answers from the EEC, he will ask the president to exercise his exclusive prerogative to call a referendum on giving up full membership in the Community.

What is puzzling in this line of conduct is that if he wanted to abrogate the Treaty of Accession he could do so through Parliament. That he chose to face the risk of a refusal from the President is interpreted by his critics as implying either that he now wants an excuse to say in the EEC that he is preparing to have a confrontation with President Karamanlis at a time of his choosing.

His enemies contend that Mr Papandreu's ultimate intention is to impose a one-sided system modelled on Ba'athist or Gaddafiist types. He himself vehemently rejects the accusation. In his policy statement he reaffirmed his own and his party's loyalty to a pluralistic parliamentary democracy.

In case of conflict, however, the President's alternatives would be either to call a referendum or dissolve Parliament and call for elections. A referendum called to rule on a dispute between the President and the Government, held under the threat that if it turned against him, the President would resign, could be a powerful weapon. Not as powerful, perhaps, as it would have been if the Socialists and the Communists together could not muster the three-fifths majority of 180 votes in Parliament needed to elect a president. As it is they could.

All this, of course, lies in the realm of speculation. Mr Papandreu has promised the Greeks that he would not lead the country to adventures. "We are not looking for confrontations," he stated. The first signs are that, despite some verbal extremism, the path of moderation is still being followed.

The Papandreu Government rejected the dialogue on the ground that Greece wants nothing from Turkey, and will cede nothing — whether of its sovereign territory, or its share of the Aegean continental shelf, or even its jurisdiction over Aegean air space.

"If Turkey has any claims against us, let it appeal to the International Court at The Hague," said Mr Papandreu in Parliament last month. But it is doubtful that Turkey will

take this change of direction without argument. So, like his predecessor, the new Greek Prime Minister is seeking from the United States, and Nato, so far without success, guarantees against a possible attack from Turkey, as well as assurances that the existing military balance will not be upset.

Such continuing dependence on the West to face the Turkish threat inevitably sets the limit to how far or how soon Mr Papandreu can alienate Greece from the Americans and the Nato alliance without risk to his own position.

What, then, will the new Government's position be on Nato? Intellectually, it is non-aligned. Nato and the Warsaw Pact are "cold war blocks" and should be dismantled. Until then, however, Greece could stay in under certain conditions.

The first condition is that safeguards must be given that the present Greek-Turkish frontier is inviolable. A reconfirmation that the Greek Air Force is Nato's sole representative in the Aegean (as it was until the pull-out in 1974) would be seen as a right step, but Turkey, which demands a bigger role in Nato air defence in the Aegean, has already vetoed it.

A second condition is a balanced flow of military supplies to Greece and Turkey which will respect the present military equilibrium — a superior Greek Air Force and naval parity that offset Turkey's three-to-one predominance on land.

These conditions are, in a sense, also tied up with the future of the American military bases in Greece. The Greek Armed Forces are 95 per cent United States equipped. To keep them battle-ready the flow of United States military supplies, particularly of spares,



Supporters of Pasok (the Panhellenic Socialist Movement) in the streets of Athens, celebrating its sweeping victory at the polls.

Foreign Policy

New sense of national pride

It is not Greek foreign policy that has changed under the new Socialist Government so much as the philosophy behind it and its basic motivation. Priority number one now goes to the national interest which is no longer automatically identified with the Western interest. Indeed it might often conflict with it.

This new dimension has stimulated in the Greeks a sense of national pride that transcends ideology, and has rallied behind their new foreign policy with rare unanimity.

Having said this, evidently the Papandreu Government also realizes that there are some built-in constraints which, at this stage, force it to accept the compromise between what ought to be and what can be. It is chiefly considerations of national defence that now limit the scope of drastic changes.

The focus of Greece's foreign and defence policies is the assumed threat posed by Turkey to Greece's integrity and rights in the Aegean. The significance of this problem remains unchanged. The change is in the manner of confronting the threat.

The last Conservative regime believed that the contracted diplomatic dialogue between Turkey and Greece on Aegean differences was useful in averting crises, without prejudice to the Greek interests.

The Papandreu Government rejected the dialogue on the ground that Greece wants nothing from Turkey, and will cede nothing — whether of its sovereign territory, or its share of the Aegean continental shelf, or even its jurisdiction over Aegean air space.

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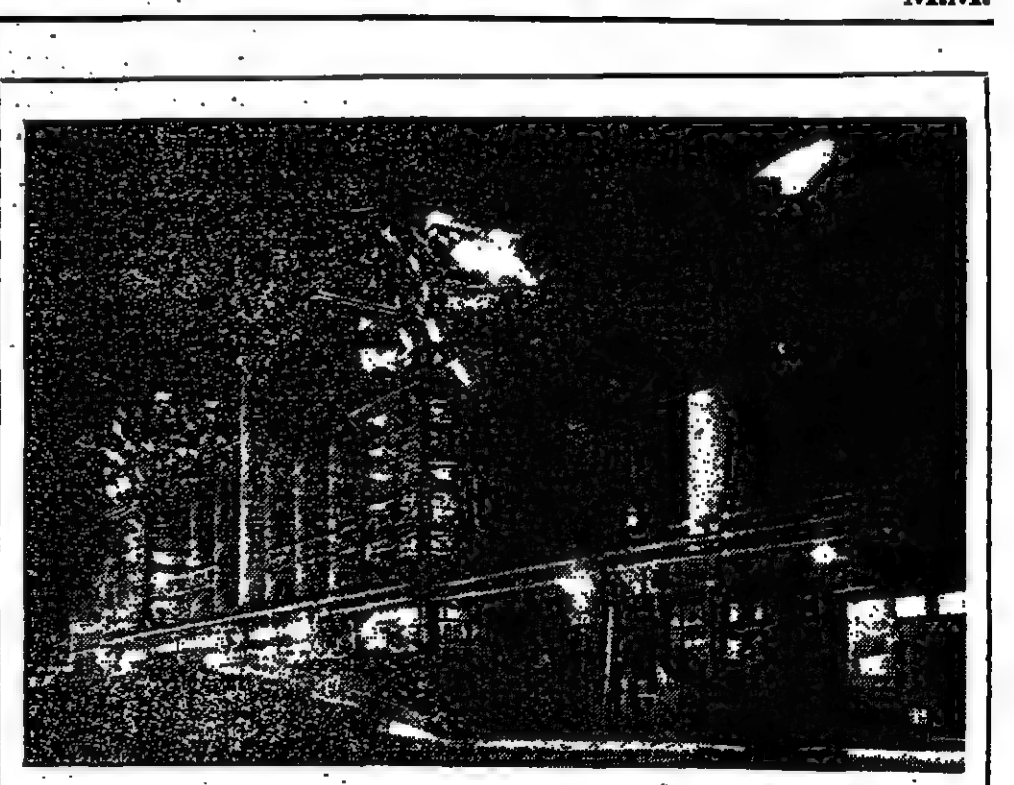
The EEC Cash rolls in for agriculture

One of the main economic advantages Greek farmers have been enjoying since entry into the EEC was the prospect of Community aid for Greek agriculture. This has now started rolling in, and at an accelerating pace. In the first nine months of 1981 the Greek balance of payments figures showed a net foreign exchange inflow of \$42m from the Community, and by the end of this year the gross receipts in respect of income guarantee payments to olive-growers — to take just one example — are expected to amount to \$58m.

These trends may become more encouraging towards the end of 1981 because of the heavy citrus crops expected in Greece this winter. Before Greece joined the Community prophets of woe were to be heard predicting that small farm holdings and small manufacturing concerns would very soon go to the wall. This view was based on the fact that the average farming unit in Greece is barely five acres, as against 25 in the EEC, and there are no less than 120,000 manufacturing establishments in Greece that are classified as "small" by European standards.

Yet there has been no sign of the disappearance of small farm holdings in the past 12 months, nor any evidence of the formation of new farmers' associations or farming cooperatives. It would appear that there are too many obstacles to the enlargement of agricultural holdings in Greece, whatever its undoubted advantages in theory.

Similar predictions of dramatic changes affecting small manufacturers in Greece through the unrestrained working of free market forces, which had been voiced by a number of theorists, have likewise come continued on next page



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Economy

The new ministers who make it up as they go along

From the fifth century BC, when Aristides the Just was ostracised by his fellow-Athenians because they were tired of hearing him extolled as an honest and upright man, right up to our own century, when the people of modern Greece removed Eleftherios Venizelos from power with the rallying-cry of "small but honourable" (referring to their country's territorial ambitions), the Greeks have always been keen on the idea of change.

This persistent itch to try something different, so frequently manifested in Greek history, has often been regarded as a sign of political immaturity unexpected in so ancient a race. Others have seen it as a response to any failure to move with the times on the part of the government of the day, and others again have attributed it to an extraordinary popular instinct for what is actually feasible and necessary at any given time.

There is undoubtedly more to it than a desire for change for its own sake. The popular verdict at the 1981 general election, which brought the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) to power, could well reflect popular disapproval of an economic and social policy whose targets were quantitative rather than qualitative. Only when the old regime has been found wanting is it time to try new men and new methods.

Even though the seven years of government by the New Democracy Party were a period of relative prosperity unmarked by international adventurism (in contrast to the previous seven years of military dictatorship which culminated in the Cyprus tragedy, a national disaster for mainland Greece as well), the fact is that there was little difference between the policies pursued before and after 1974: it was pretty much a case of the same treatment by the same doctors.

In economics, in particular, the New Democracy Government followed the same path as its predecessors by pinning its faith wholeheartedly to the final aggregate demand model. Public sector deficits amounted to

as much as 12 per cent of GNP, and fixed investment was again heavily dependent on building construction and public works, where the rate of return on capital is low.

As a result, not only did inflation persist and even gather momentum (reaching 25 per cent in 1981, the second-highest annual inflation rate in Greece since the war), but the current account deficit widened to 7 per cent of GNP. This did more than anything else to put a brake on the Greek economy, and thus the economic growth rate, which until the mid-1970s had been the highest in Western Europe and the second highest in the world, had fallen to zero by the beginning of the 1980s.

Energy lavished on minor matters

Besides being worried by the fear of economic stagnation, the Greek electorate had had enough of the government's *ad hoc* policies — "firefighting policies", as they were dubbed by the press. To deal with mounting problems such as tax evasion, sluggish investment and profiteering, the authorities could find no better solution than to dust off such time-worn measures as taxation of presumptive income on the basis of evidence of wealth, nationalisation (there are no less than 50 public corporations in existence today), price controls and the continuous expansion of the money supply (up 33 per cent this year).

Then there were other problems of a new and different kind: environmental pollution, damage to the ancient monuments, the erosion of the country's cultural identity, disastrous forest fires every summer and many more. At the same time very little attempt was made to modernize the public administration, while the attitude towards education and welfare was nothing short of niggardly, especially when it is considered that per capita income in Greece had risen to \$4,000 by the end of New Democracy's period in power.

Pasek is a socialist party which, in the run-up to the

election had very cleverly played on the electorate's disenchantment with the Government of the past seven years. After the election, however, it seems to have been taken by surprise by its own victory. The surprise was double-edged: gratified amazement at the size of the party's parliamentary majority; an unpleasant shock, jolting the new Government discovered what it had inherited from its predecessors.

In the lucid intervals between spells of being blinded by power, the New Democracy Party cast its mind back with aversive mania to the events of 1963, when its progenitor, the National Radical Union (ERE), had left the public coffers full, only to see them emptied by the Centre Union government of George Papandreou (father of the present Prime Minister), which distributed largesse in the form of welfare benefits.

The consequence of this policy was that the Centre Union was elected to power with an overall majority of the popular vote (53 per cent as against the 48 per cent won by Pasek this year).

With this past experience in mind, certain crafty Machiavellians in the New Democracy Party suggested that this time they should leave the coffers empty and pursue what the left-wing press (then in opposition) described as "a scorched earth policy".

The result is that the new Minister of Finance, Mr. Emmanouel Dretakis, discovered to his horror that the central government budget alone (which was presented at the beginning of this year as a balanced budget of Dr5 500,000m (about £4750m) showing a deficit of approximately Dr5 190,000m. The National Statistical Service has revealed that the inflation rate for the 12 months to October 1981 was 26 and not 20 per cent as claimed by the outgoing Government. And the new Minister of Coordination (responsible for overall management of the economy), Mr. Apostolos Lazaris, has been brought face to face with the weaknesses of his predecessor insisted on

describing as "running smoothly" despite Bank of Greece statements to the contrary.

Thus the legacy inherited by Pasek includes a large number of debit items, which are bound to lengthen the new team's "thinking time" when the situation calls for fast reactions and rapid decision-making.

All this, however, does not alter the fact that Pasek has shown itself unprepared to take initiatives. It came to power without having drawn up even the most rudimentary initial plan of action and its ministers are obviously extemporising as they go along. So much has been made clear by some of the new Government's first acts, such as its decision to "freeze" Law 1116/1981 (which provides for state aid for certain private investment projects), its rescission of various contracts with private concerns (including the revocation of Shell's licence for seabed oil exploration in the Theraic Gulf and of the permit for the construction of a coal gasification plant at Kynosourta), its controversial handling of the case of the state-owned petrochemical complex at Mesolonghi, its threats to nationalize the cement factories at Volos and its ill-conceived interventions in the working of the Athens Stock Exchange.

A need for quick decision making

At a time when the Greek economy is faced with such crucial problems as the high inflation rate, the stagnation of investment, the reduction of exports, the financing of oil imports (\$3000m in 1982) and the heavy burden of foreign debt servicing (\$300m in 1982), the new Government is lavishing time and energy on matters of minor importance. Having taken two weeks to appoint new men to the state-controlled banks, the economic authorities then turned their attention to such things as the five-year plan, the "monetary target", qualitative credit controls, and the nationalization of loss-making enterprises. All these,

however, are projects that will require at least a year's preparation.

In its policy statement of November 21, the Papandreou Government announced that it intends to "socialize" the energy and transport sectors, large mining concerns and shipyards, and the steel, cement, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals and armaments industries. Although the statement did not clarify exactly what is meant by the "socialization" of these sectors, the policy of nationalization — for that is what it is — will either cost the Greek taxpayer a great deal of money or else it is simply an empty form of words, since many of the industries on the list (such as energy, transport and armaments) are under state control already.

The Government did not make it clear what it intended to do about the ownership of ships flying the Greek flag and the composition of their crews. Nor did the policy statement say anything about the Government's attitude towards the business world and foreign investments. Reports and rumours abound. The Government has stated that it will insist that all ships flying the Greek flag are "Genuinely Greek".

Reports in the pro-government press suggest that Pasek intends to review all the existing economic development legislation, even including Law 2687/1953, which provides constitutional safeguards for foreign capital investments in Greece, but the official policy statement contained only a vaguely worded allusion to the subject: "Foreign investments will be welcomed but their administration (must be transparent), the meaning of which is as obscure in Greek as it is in English. So far nothing has officially been said about the expected tax reforms or the government policy on tax evasion."

Lastly, the Pasek Government is reintroducing price controls (but now *de facto* and index-linked wage and salary rates, and it is also going to set up entirely new machinery for state intervention in the import and export trade.

Constantine Collmer

Agriculture

Some thorny fruits of the Market

Greece's accession to the EEC constitutes a major event in modern Greek history. The significant of this event, however, has been blurred by two facts. One is the political party which brought Greece into the Common Market tried to make clumsy political capital out of it; the other is the disillusionment of many Greeks by the realization that the Government could have obtained better terms for accession and the administration could have coached the country better to withstand the shock.

The discussions that preceded accession rested on two main points: the quantitative relationships, and more particularly, the benefits expected to be received from the application of the Common Agricultural Policy, for Greek farmers.

The first point was at the centre of discussions not only during the negotiations, but also after accession. By concentrating attention on the "get in" aspect of membership, on the grants and subsidies that could be obtained from the EEC, it was argued that membership would necessarily prove to be beneficial, and of course credit should be given to the party which was responsible for it.

The likely impact of accession on Greek agriculture has however been the subject of much discussion. At this point, it is worth remembering that Greek agriculture is a typical "Mediterranean" agriculture. It is a sector suffering from deep structural problems, such as the small size of holdings, low productivity, limited application of new technology, misuse of capital and land, to mention only the most obvious. The inevitable outcome is an agriculture with uncertain prospects.

Fundamental changes are therefore necessary to face up to the challenge of accession. This challenge has already come on a number of points.

In view of the new institutional and market conditions facing Greek agriculture, such adjustment as has or is taking place can hardly be considered satisfactory. Indeed, in the months after

accession, adjustment has been proceeding at a slow and uneven pace. The preparation and approval of Government decrees to bring Greek law into line with Community law has either been delayed, or it has been happening in a haphazard way.

The application of Community directives and regulations in Greece is taking place in an unsystematic way. This has correspondingly reduced Greece's ability to absorb Community funds, which could otherwise play a positive role in the further development of the primary sector.

Certain major changes are now overdue

This restriction should come as no surprise for other fundamental changes ought to have come first. Some such overdue changes are: the creation of a land registry office, the creation of a national land organization, for land-use planning, in particular of the Heritage Law to the requirements set forward by the post-accession agricultural policy of the EEC, and the encouragement of agricultural trade unions and the cooperative movement.

As far as agricultural prices are concerned, there are still complaints about the decisions taken in Brussels last April. The prices set then for basic products cannot be considered satisfactory by a number of producers and political parties.

In relation to tobacco, high prices were granted only to export varieties. It is argued that it is the exporter who receives the support offered by the Community, assuming that he pays producers a minimum price. With olive oil no provision was made to take account of the 7.5 per cent national tax producers have to pay on the prices received.

Finally, in relation to fruit and vegetables, a false start was made in the case of peaches and apples, by not even examining the export possibilities to third countries.

The application of the CAP in any member-state of the EEC limits the area for national action. For example, the Community agricultural structures policy represents an effort to harmonize national aid, so as to promote development objectives, as these are defined by the Community. These aids are given on the basis of specific conditions.

The revision of the CAP may come at a time which is not the best for the interests of Greek farmers, as they were led to believe just before accession. This will be particularly the case if the EEC insists that the rate of expenditure on agriculture should be lower as a proportion of total expenditure in the Community.

One of the main problems of Greek agriculture, and a serious national and regional problem for Greece, is that of rural depopulation. The population exodus that began in the late 1940s and accelerated in the following two decades was caused by many social, political and economic factors.

Hundreds of thousands of Greeks left the countryside. The movement of the rural population out of agriculture in the past helped for a better and more rational equilibrium among the various factors of production. However, if this exodus continues, it will prove harmful. Employment opportunities in the urban centres are diminishing, while the size of cities, such as Athens and Thessaloniki, leads to a lowering of the quality of life. It is one of the most unfortunate developments in modern Greek society that cities such as Athens and a dozen smaller urban centres have been transformed into tragic, ugly agglomerations.

To the extent that the aid given under the CAP is combined with that given by the regional fund in an effort to improve the social and economic infrastructure of the rural areas, it may be possible to limit further depopulation. Only then may Greece's accession to the EEC prove to be to its benefit and help in reaching its development goals.

Adamantios Papelasis

Shipping

A welcome pledge to private enterprise

Twelve months of closer acquaintance with the EEC's bureaucracy has reassured Greek owners of their ability to influence events inside a Community from which they now stand to gain more than they could lose. Their huge fleet (the EEC leads at about 70m dwt) would benefit the other sectors of the Greek economy, which are suffering from a shortage of cheap funds.

As for foreigners buying properties in Greece, the high price of land has been quite enough to outweigh the little that has so far been done to relax the restrictions.

Meanwhile the Greek community has been making gains from square one. Apart from the scandal over hormones in meat (which was exposed through the action of consumer's associations in the Community countries) and the slight decline in the prices of some imported products, the average Greek can see little benefit to him from EEC membership. He still has to pay just as much for his car, he still cannot buy a portable television set duty free (though he soon will be able to, and he certainly cannot buy anything more cheaply than retires. The only visible advantage is the fact that he is officially allowed to take more currency with him when he travels to the EEC.

Yet there have in fact been other improvements as well: the Greek Government has narrowed the range of advance cash deposits payable on imports, simplified customs clearance procedure and reduced import duties by one-fifth. There are two main reasons why the consumer has not felt the beneficial effects of these measures. First, the benefits have been marginal, and secondly they have been largely offset by the devaluation of the drachma against the dollar and other hard currencies.

For the Greeks, the greatest success resulting from Community membership has come as an unexpected bonus. This was in the form of the Fourcade Report, which recognized almost all of the Aegean Sea as Community customs waters, and thus gave implicit backing to Greece in its dispute with Turkey, which is not in the EEC.

The fact remains that about 35 per cent of the population, according to a recent opinion poll, believe that Greece's interests will suffer through membership of the Community. Some observers find even this relatively encouraging, and point to other countries where the anti-market forces were numerically much stronger.

But the number of those who blame every misfortune on the Community is likely to grow in Greece in 1982 because the Papandreou Government maintains that membership of the Community is exacerbating many of this country's economic problems and creating new ones."

C.C.

tenance of invisible payments now running at \$2,000m a year from the maritime sector. If there is a difference of opinion it is likely to emerge as Pasek acts out its theories on the cementing of closer ties between the shipping community and its homeland.

Presenting his political programme to Parliament on November 22, Mr Papandreou underlined the party's commitment to forging closer ties between Greek shipping and the national economy. One obvious element here is the priority Pasek has already said it will give to all-Greek fleetings where possible of a fleet on which some 50,000 jobs will now serve. This makes it unlikely that owners will receive much encouragement in their bid to put foreign crews on a more organized basis, and at lower than Greek rates, say through bilateral manning accords entered into directly between the Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS) and representatives of Asian seamen's unions.

With the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation locked in negotiations with the UGS on claims for a 33% rise in basic pay for 1982, the Greek side for now seems to be on the streets of Piraeus of seafarers' unemployment.

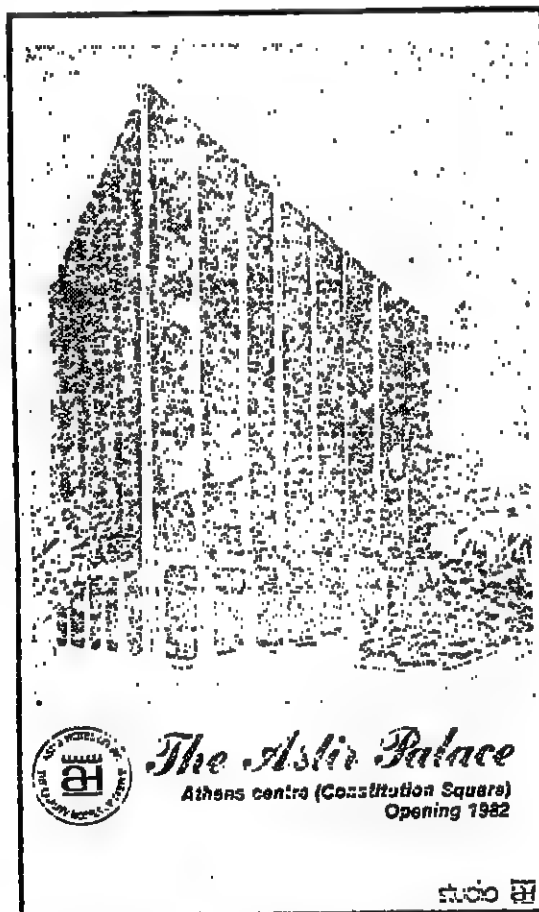
There is much else for competition to ponder. Will Pasek flesh out an election pledge to set up a special insurance grouping to cover Greek vessels? And just what degree of state intervention is implied by the Government's inclusion of major shipyards in its list of industrial concerns due for "socialization" — the party's version of nationalization?

The thought of having to pay over their hull premiums in Greece, as French-flag operators are required to do in France, would worry owners less (since reinsurance would almost certainly be sought in London) than the servicing aspect. How quickly would their revenues and assets be taxed for a modest levy on gross tonnage worth \$58.7m to the Exchequer in 1979.

Anxieties on this score appear largely to have been laid to rest, but other question marks remain.

A series of hurriedly arranged meetings with Pasek's young shipping minister, 41-year-old Mr Stathis Viotas, and with the Prime Minister himself, have yielded a measure of reassurance, with both sides agreeing on the importance of a competitive merchant fleet to main-

Stephen Farrant
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PRIME MINISTER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU PRESENTS HIS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME TO THE GREEK PARLIAMENT

Goals and institutions

In introducing his programme Mr Papandreou listed the general goals which would determine the course his government intended to follow. They were: national independence and territorial integrity, popular sovereignty and democracy, self-sustained economic and social development, cultural regeneration, the revitalisation of the provinces, a radical improvement of the quality of urban and rural life, social justice and ultimately social liberation. "The vision of change," the Prime Minister said, "will be made a reality." The government's sole commitment is to the national interest, and its basic principle is that social benefit outweighs individual gain. This does not mean that the government is against private initiative: any effort that contributes to the development of the country will be encouraged. At the same time popular participation in decision-making will ensure the people's consent on the road to social liberation. "The institutions on which we shall base ourselves," Mr Papandreou declared, "are the following: (a) Parliament; (b) Local Self-administration in the framework of substantial decentralisation; (c) Trade Unionism and the mass movement of the people; (d) Democratic Planning; and (e) a public administration democratised and restored to health. Productive and Agro-industrial Cooperatives will also have an important role to play in the rural areas." Through these institutions, he went on, Greece will proceed to self-sustained national development in parallel to balanced regional development. "In this effort the role of the National Assembly will be decisive. Democratic dialogue, with full information and constructive criticism, will open new horizons for the country."

National Defence

"The first priority of the government's defence policy is to maintain the effectiveness of the Greek armed forces and to make sure that they are in a constant state of readiness. The mission of the armed forces is to defend our national independence and territorial integrity and to discourage any designs on our inalienable national rights. Greece claims nothing from any other country, but equally is not prepared to make any concession at the expense of her national territory." In this framework the government intends to improve the organisation of the armed forces, and to ensure the well-being of all their personnel. Particular attention will be paid to the personal needs of the conscripted ranks. Expenditure on defence will have absolute priority, and the aim will be to secure maximum benefits at the minimum cost. "Our primary goal will be the continuous modernisation of equipment and the gradual diversification of sources of supply in order to avoid dependence in any one direction. At the same time we shall give particular attention to the development of an up-to-date Greek arms industry." Research in the field of defence technology will be encouraged, and a state agency will be set up to handle sales of defence equipment abroad.

Foreign Policy

"The foremost concern of the government is the formulation of an independent and genuinely multi-dimensional foreign policy. Friendly relations will be developed in particular with the Balkans, the peoples of the Mediterranean, with Europe (both West and East), and with the Arab world. More broadly, the government intends to contribute to détente, disarmament and world peace. Its foreign policy is one of peace, of realism, of solidarity with peoples fighting for their national independence, and of recognition that Greece belongs simultaneously to Europe, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean. On the major national issues the government will follow a different policy from that of its predecessor."

The Aegean

"On the issue of the Aegean it must be made clear, not only to our neighbours but also to the Atlantic Alliance, that our land, air and sea borders, as well as the limits of the Greek continental shelf in the Aegean, are not negotiable. They are safeguarded by international treaties and agreements and also by international practice. We have clearly indicated to Ankara our wish that our peoples should live in peace and friendship. Both countries must sooner or later at last consider seriously putting an end to their costly arms race and channelling funds instead to health, to education, and to raising their standards of living. We have also made it clear, however, that we are not prepared to concede even an inch of Greek soil. Our dialogue with Turkey is meaningful and potentially fruitful only in so far as it does not relate to concessions of inalienable sovereign rights or of arrangements, based on international agreements under which competence or jurisdiction has been allocated to Greece."

Cyprus

"It must be remembered that the Cyprus question primarily is one of foreign occupation. This is a vital issue for Greece. At the same time it has become a critical international problem following the Turkish invasion and military occupation of a large part of an independent and non-aligned member of the United Nations. Our government has not forgotten that Greece remains a guarantor power and has the legal right and the obligation actively to support the struggle of the Cypriot people for freedom of movement and settlement throughout the island, and for the formulation of a constitutional charter which will not only safeguard the unity and independence of the Cyprus Republic but will also confer equal rights and obligations on all its citizens, both Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot. At the same time the government will undertake a crusade to inform world opinion and to mobilise all those forces capable of contributing to a just solution of the Cyprus problem. It is also necessary for us to open the 'Cyprus file' so that the Greek and Cypriot people may at last learn who is responsible for the tragedy of Cyprus."

NATO

"On NATO, our strategic position derives from our vision of the eventual dissolution of both cold war blocs, NATO and the Warsaw Pact. As far as NATO is concerned, quite apart from the

matter of principle and the nature of the Alliance, the Greek people cannot forget that NATO supported the seven-year dictatorship in Greece, and that it did nothing to prevent the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. However, there is a still more immediate issue: there is no point in our belonging to an alliance which does not guarantee our eastern borders from all possible threats, and which at the same time tends to disrupt the balance of power in the Aegean by its unrestrained provision of military equipment to Turkey. Furthermore, the government considers that the Rogers Agreement, as interpreted for the past year, places the limits of Greece's operational control in the Aegean in question. This we consider unacceptable. In other words the Alliance does not guarantee our borders, while the Rogers Agreement is detrimental to our national interest. The vote of confidence which this government will obtain from Parliament will also be a mandate for us to take steps to safeguard our borders and protect our interests. The procedure of disengagement from the Rogers Agreement is one of these."

US Bases

"During the negotiations on the American bases to be held early in 1982, we shall suggest — as we have stressed before — a time-scale for their removal from our country. Until then the operation of the bases will be governed by the following conditions: (a) Greek control and supervision of base activities; (b) the possibility of annual review and amendment of the relevant agreements so as to safeguard our national interests; (c) suspension of base activities whenever Greek interests are at risk, whether these relate to our national security or to our relations with friendly countries in the region as a whole."

International relations

The Prime Minister stressed the need for peaceful resolution of international disputes. "It is for this reason," he added, "that alliances and blocs which might be turned against peace and popular self-determination, and which could lead to world-wide polarisation — especially in the European and Mediterranean area — are incompatible with the philosophy of our foreign policy." On Europe the government is guided by the principle that the continent is an integral whole, and that the ultimate goal should be the creation not of a new super-power but of a Europe of the working people. As it did when in opposition, the government intends to continue to work for the promotion of peace, friendship and cooperation among the peoples of the Mediterranean region, which should be free of super-power fleets and of military exercises that endanger peace. Relations with the Arab world are developing favourably, and the government intends to continue to broaden their scope. In addition, "we firmly support the struggle of the Palestinians for self-determination, for the acquisition of their own homeland, and for the return of all the refugees to their homes." As far as the Balkans are concerned, the intention is again to pursue friendship and cooperation. And because it has long been a sensitive region subject to foreign influence, it is imperative that a zone of peace be created here, so that the Balkans may be denuclearised and disengaged from politico-military blocs. "We shall endeavour to strengthen the existing political relationships with a view to establishing institutions that will ensure permanent cooperation. More specifically, as a first step the government proposes the creation of a denuclearised zone in the Balkans. After the necessary consultations, Greece will shortly be the first to apply this principle by removing nuclear weapons from her territory." The government will also seek to develop relations with the Third World and substantially to promote cooperation with non-aligned countries.

The Common Market

"The rules and the machinery of the European Community, to which the accession treaty obliges us to conform, intensify many of the economic problems we face and create new ones. This situation is worsened by the terms of entry as they were agreed. Our aim is to hold a referendum, according to the constitutional procedure so that the Greek people may pronounce on this serious issue. We note that the decision on holding a referendum or not is among the prerogatives of the President of the Republic. Naturally our position remains firm on the need to establish a special agreement with the European Community which will permit the implementation of our development plan, especially in the industrial and agricultural sectors, and which will safeguard our national independence. The government, however, will honour the verdict of the Greek people, no matter what this verdict is, when the time comes. In any case until the Greek people pronounce on the issue, we will fight within the institutions of the European Communities to protect the interests of the Greek people. We will make full use of the escape clauses and of every margin for manoeuvre offered by the Treaty of Rome or even the Treaty of Accession, but we will not hesitate to take the measures necessary for the protection of the working people and the producers, and for the development of our country independently of Community commitments. We will put these views in all sincerity to the European Community summit meeting to be held in a few days in London. This first summit meeting in which the new government will take part has a main item on its agenda: the reshaping of the Common Agricultural Policy and other Community Policies, as well as the restructuring of the Community Budget. I do not underestimate the importance of the fact that the inequalities within the Community are becoming more and more to be perceived. I consider this problem of inequalities to be of absolute priority and to concern, not just the prestige but the very cohesion of the Community. We shall put our problems to the summit meeting in a concrete way. This does not mean that I am optimistic about their speedy solution. We shall of course follow these developments very closely and with great attention. Our basic aspiration is to develop many-sided trade and economic relations with all countries."

A Government of all Greeks

In order to ensure the genuine exercise of popular sovereignty and democracy the government will undertake certain institutional changes. Parliament will be strengthened, but at

the same time the other two pillars of democracy will be reinforced, namely Local Government and the Trade Union movement both in urban and in rural areas. The full and objective information of citizens through the mass media and the free circulation of ideas also has a decisive role to play here. As befits a government of all Greeks, everything necessary will be done to secure national reconciliation and consensus, in particular the ratification of the recognition of the National Resistance as a whole during World War II, the abolition of commemorative events which divide the people, the destruction of security files on citizens, and the return of political refugees.

Parties and elections

Legislation will be introduced concerning the financing of political parties. An electoral system based on simple proportional representation will be introduced while the preference cross system will be abolished. The minimum voting age will be lowered to 18. Provisions will be made for emigrants, seamen and Greek students abroad to be able to vote in parliamentary elections.

Justice

Equality before the law and the constitutional provisions on civil rights will be applied irrespective of party loyalties or religious beliefs. The government will take steps to ensure the independence of the judiciary. Legislation will be gradually reviewed and reshaped. First priority will be given to family law with the aim of ensuring equality of men and women. Civil marriage will be introduced and will have the same legal status as religious marriage. The death penalty will be abolished and special safeguards will be introduced against the use of torture. Rehabilitation centres will be reorganised and humane living conditions created. In the field of public order, the government will take steps to bring about a closer rapprochement between the security forces and the people. The Church will be allowed to pursue its own goals without interference from the State. Church and State will be totally separated as regards administrative functions.

Decentralisation

The government will soon introduce a new institutional framework for decentralisation. Municipalities and local communities will be granted additional powers and responsibilities, while second and third tiers of local government will also be established in stages. There will be a gradual transfer of powers, resources and technical infrastructure from the centre to the regions. Municipalities and local communities will enjoy administrative and financial autonomy. Decentralisation and delegation of authority will be introduced throughout the public administration in order to minimise bureaucracy and improve efficiency. Party favouritism and corruption will be eliminated.

Trade Unionism

Undemocratic and anti-union legislation, as well as all means of state and employer interference in the trade unions, will be abolished. Trade union leaders will be protected and those that have been persecuted for trade union activities will be reinstated. Trade unionism is envisaged as a movement which fights for its rights but also participates constructively in the development process.

State of the economy

The economy of the country faces several major problems, inherited from the previous (New Democracy) governments, namely inflation, declining levels of productive investment, an enormous public sector deficit, a widening balance-of-payments deficit and growing foreign indebtedness, growing inequalities in income distribution, a cumbersome, inefficient state machine, and increasingly acute social and environmental problems in both town and countryside.

The economy: goals and methods

The main goal of economic policy is to achieve self-sustained economic and social development, full use of existing productive forces, and a fair distribution of national income. Although key sectors of the economy will be socialised, the government recognises the positive role which private enterprise can play. The new government will introduce democratic planning, which will ensure cooperation between the central organs of state planning and elected "development committees" operating at local government level. A 5-year (1983-87) plan will be drafted and put to parliament before the end of next year. Until then short-term measures will be applied, aimed at curbing inflation, reflationing the economy, and ensuring a redistribution of income.

Incomes and prices

Wages will be index-linked. New taxation measures will be applied to help the lower-income groups. Minimum pension levels will be gradually increased. At the same time price controls will also be gradually introduced, and will be enforced on firms which occupy a predominant market position, and on basic consumption goods. A public import-export agency will be set up in an effort to combat monopoly practices in foreign trade.

Monetary and fiscal policy

Credit policy will be altered to ensure the most efficient allocation of scarce funds. The financing of small and medium-sized companies will be viewed with particular favour. While eschewing monetarist policies, the government will nonetheless regulate money supply in accordance with production and productivity increases as well as overall structural economic improvements. The government seeks to rationalise public finance and ensure a more equitable distribution of the tax burden. Measures will be introduced to combat tax evasion and public spending will be reviewed. Radical changes will also be introduced to increase the efficiency of public enterprises with the aim of reducing the public sector deficit.

Socialisation and private initiative

Key sectors of the economy will be brought under social control. These include energy, public transport, mineral extraction, shipyards, steel, cement, fertilisers and pharmaceuticals, as well as those industries directly related to defence. At the same time the government will encourage private initiative within the framework of the national development programme. To this end it will employ an appropriate credit policy, and review the entire system of incentives, subsidies and grants. The government will also take steps to help any potentially viable firms currently undergoing financial difficulties.

Agricultural policy

A fundamental principle of the new government's policy is the balanced development of agriculture. Our aim is to ensure that the basic food requirements of the country are met by domestic production. The main guidelines of agricultural policy are the participation of the farmers in decision-making processes; the rational development and mechanisation of agriculture; the reduction of inequalities within the agricultural sector; and the improvement of the quality of rural life. The government will ensure that farmers receive a fair income by securing prices which will cover the production costs plus a reasonable margin of profit; by a system of grants and income subsidies; by regulating supplies and improving the marketing system through cooperatives; and by increasing the productivity of the agricultural sector through reducing costs and creating opportunities for supplementary employment. The terms under which farmers can borrow from the Agricultural Bank of Greece will be gradually improved. Land belonging to the State and monasteries as well as large private land holdings will be socialised and will be distributed to landless farmers, within the framework of a cooperative. The chief means for the implementation of agricultural policy will be the voluntarily formed agricultural and agri-industrial cooperatives.

Industry, energy and research

The government's aim is to achieve balanced regional development, to introduce new technology to support existing viable industrial units and to help establish new competitive ones which will raise productivity levels, extend the vertical integration of industrial production and create new employment opportunities. Due attention will be given to environmental considerations. Planning contracts will be drawn up between the various development agencies and the firms financed by them. Full use will be made of the country's energy potential, although every effort will be made to preserve domestic sources of energy and to protect the environment. Exploration for oil will be stepped up, and all possibilities of cooperation with the Arab countries will be exploited. In the field of research priority will be given to defence, energy, and mineral extraction as well as agricultural and industrial development. Research in economics and social science will also be promoted. A new institutional framework including a new Ministry for Research and Development will be created in order to implement the government's research programme, and due weight will be accorded to post-graduate studies in the universities and the repatriation of Greek scientists working abroad.

Public works and Transport

Policy on public works will seek to make the best possible use of the country's natural resources and achieve a balanced development of the country's regions. Special measures will be taken against natural disasters. The transport system will be improved in order to facilitate the government's regional development policy. Shipping will receive strong state support in order to maintain its competitiveness. The shipbuilding industry will be extended and reorganised so as to provide new employment opportunities in the region.

Tourism, housing and the environment

Services in tourism will be improved. A new construction policy will be introduced favouring small units that are in harmony with the environment. Greek land will not be sold to foreign interests. Housing policy will seek to prevent profiteering and help those wishing to buy a home of their own. Special long-term measures will be introduced for the protection of the environment.

Education and Health

Changes in educational policy will include: (a) the reorientation of education in line with the country's production needs; (b) abolition of private education, para-education and privileged schools; (c) improvement of the standards of education especially in deprived areas, where local government will run open university courses; and (d) special emphasis on technical education and postgraduate studies. A national health system will be introduced which will provide improved hospital services in both urban and rural areas throughout the country. A national pharmaceutical industry will be created to rationalise the production and distribution of pharmaceutical products.

Employment and Youth

Youth unemployment will be tackled by creating new jobs and reorganising the existing employment agencies. A five-day, 40 hour week will be gradually introduced in all sectors. Working conditions will be improved by legislation, and emigrants will be encouraged to return home. Equality between men and women will be established at all levels of political, social, economic, cultural and family life. Special care will be given to motherhood and family planning. Military service will be reduced and measures will be taken to reduce delinquency among the young.

Athens, 22nd November 1981

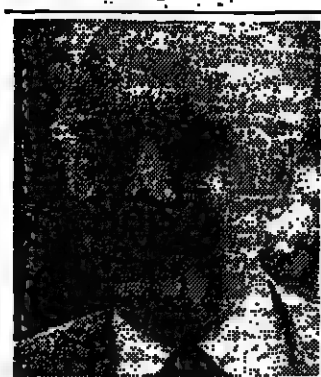
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GREECE

On this page Mario Modiano profiles the members of the new Greek Cabinet and John Crossland discusses the outlook for Greece's threatened environment.

These are the members of the first Socialist Cabinet in Greek history

Andreas Papandreu



Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, revealed in a recent interview that the idea that one day he would rule Greece entered his head at the age of 20 while he was being roughed up by security men of the Metaxas dictatorship for handing out Trotskyite literature.

Today, at the age of 62, he has shed that precocious revolutionism but he remains an inveterate non-conformist. In his 17-year uphill struggle for power, he displayed a perseverance and a resilience that is rare in Greek politics. It was his father, George Papandreu, who, on becoming Premier in 1963, induced him to go into politics. In doing so, he gave up a brilliant career as a professor of economics in the United States, where he had fled after that incident with the security police.

His vision of democracy, after 20 years in American universities, was far removed from the rigid models that the right wing had imposed on Greece for decades. The clash was inevitable.

It came first in 1965 when the King eased his father out of power, and again in 1967 when the prospect that he and his father would win the election prompted a junta of colonels to impose a dictatorship lasting seven years.

Returning to Greece from exile after the fall of the junta, he set up his radical Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek), which made socialism respectable in Greece. Between 1974 and

1977 he doubled his following and by 1981 he had doubled it again, riding to power in last October's election with 48 per cent of the votes.

Affable and soft-spoken in private, he has the gift of galvanizing crowds with an articulate oratory that he evidently inherited from his father. He likes to keep his options open but rarely loses sight of the goal. His ambition is to develop a model of orthodox socialism that is fairer than the capitalism of the West and free from the dogma of the East.

Married. One daughter and three sons, of whom the eldest, George, is now an MP.

Yannis Haralambopoulos



An ex-army officer turned politician, Yannis Haralambopoulos, the new foreign minister, is one of Premier Papandreu's most trusted men. Tall and handsome at 62, his carriage is still military and is emphasized by an impressive cavalry moustache. His bearing, however, betrays none of the ordeals he experienced at the time of the dictatorship.

Arrested, jailed and banished several times after the 1967 coup for his role in the anti-regime resistance in 1972 he assumed the leadership in Greece of Andreas Papandreu's Panhellenic Liberation Movement. After the polytechnic uprising in 1973 he was rounded up together with his son and both were subjected to savage tortures at the infamous Special Interrogation Section of the Military police.

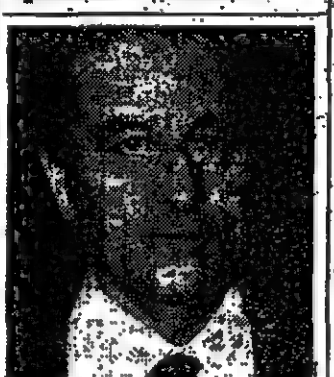
Born in the south of Greece in 1919, he graduated from the Army Officers' Cadet School in 1939. He saw action in the Albanian front and later, when Greece was overrun by enemy forces, in the Middle East.

After the war he obtained an engineering degree on a scholarship in England at Woolwich Polytechnic. In 1953 he taught at the cadet school. He had reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1961 when he decided to go into politics under the banner of Papandreu's father. He was elected Centre-Union deputy from his native Messinia in south Greece, in 1963 and 1964.

After the downfall of the dictatorship in 1974, he joined Pasok and was re-elected in every election since. Earlier this year, he was leader of the Greek Socialist contingent in the European Parliament.

Married, he has one son and a daughter.

Apostolos Lazaris



Professor Apostolos Lazaris was perhaps the natural choice for the post of Minister of Coordination, which carries full responsibility for the Government's overall economic policy. Before the election he was the coordinator of the party's brains trust which elaborated Pasok's impressive programme.

A Manchester-trained economist, he first met Andreas Papandreu in 1959 when they were both working as economic experts for

the Bank of Greece. Dismissed from his post by the junta, he went abroad and between 1968 and 1975 was employed by the United Nations as an adviser on economic planning and development.

Back in Greece after the fall of the junta, he retrieved his post as Professor of Economic Analysis at the Graduate School of Industrial Studies in Piraeus. At the same time he was helping Mr Papandreu as the party's chief economic expert.

As Minister of Coordination, he is now in the Government hierarchy and acts as Prime Minister in Mr Papandreu's absence. A gentle but unsmiling man, and an articulate speaker, he is widely respected by fellow economists, even those who question his socialist ideas about the active participation of the people in planning decisions and a self-sustained national economy.

Born on the island of Lefkas in 1921, he was elected deputy on the party's state list. Married. His daughter is studying economics in Canada.

Costas Simitis



Costas Simitis believes that the Minister of Agriculture in the new Socialist Government, his mission is twofold: to bring about major structural reforms including the creation of new, voluntary farmers' cooperatives (SMICAN) and to prepare the long-term programme for agriculture which, he says, "unfortunately does not exist today".

One of the most challenging aspects of his work will be to defend the Greek farmer from eventually detrimental EEC rules, until Greece decides whether to stay in or leave the Community.

A professor of commercial and comparative law in Germany (Gießen) and Athens (Panteion), he was a member of the team that elaborated the party's original platform. He was for long regarded as Pasok's theoretician.

Born in Athens in 1936, he studied law and economics at Marburg in Germany and at the London School of Economics. He first met Papandreu in 1965, the year he set up a progressive group to study Greek political problems. During the dictatorship he was active in the Democratic Defence, an anti-regime resistance organisation. In 1969 he managed to evade arrest and flee abroad, but his wife was jailed instead. He is a founding member of Pasok and a member of its central committee, but did not stand for Parliament in the last elections.

He is married, with two teenage daughters.

Stathis Yiotas



At 41, Stathis Yiotas, the Minister of Merchant Marine, is the youngest member of the Papandreu Government, but his background as a political activist dates back to 1962 when he was president of the powerful Law Students Union. He became active in the political youth movement of the Centre Union which played a key role in the dramatic political developments of the mid-1960s. But it was after the 1967 military coup that Yiotas hit the headlines when he was involved with the late Alexander Panagoulis in the abortive



Melina Mercouri

It would not be fair to describe Melina Mercouri, the new Minister of Culture, only as the most glamorous member of the Papandreu cabinet. A renowned film star with an international reputation but also a hard-working politician who has at heart the problems of her destitute Piraeus constituency, the setting of her most successful film *Never on Sunday*.

Born into a family of Athenian politicians in 1925, she graduated from the National Theatre's drama school and made a spectacular career as an actress on the stage and the screen.

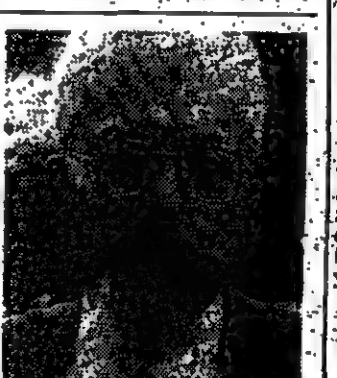
During the dictatorship plot to assassinate the dictator George Papadopoulos in 1968.

Captured, he was tortured to confess and later court-martialled. He received a 10-year sentence of which he served five. An amnesty set him free in 1973. One year later the dictatorship collapsed.

Yiotas, a lawyer, was a founding member of Pasok. He was elected to Parliament three times since 1974 for the Attica constituency. He was well-liked in Parliament because of his methodical work focusing mainly on labour problems.

This experience is likely to be useful as he will have to solve the intractable problem of how to secure full employment for Greek seamen in the face of stiff competition from low-cost Asian crews.

Manolis Drettakis



Greece gets its first socialist budget in 1982 and the delicate task of balancing it belongs to Manolis Drettakis, the new Minister of Finance.

Having studied economics at the Graduate School of Commercial Studies in Athens and obtained his doctorate in econometrics at the London School of Economics, Drettakis seems eminently qualified for the job.

While in London he worked for six years in the Greek service of the BBC. Some of it significantly, while Greece was under military rule. In 1970 he became lecturer in econometrics at Leeds University.

He returned to Greece after the fall of the dictatorship and since 1974 he has held the chair of econometrics in his alma mater, the School of Commercial Studies. Silver-haired, with gold-rimmed spectacles and a protruding black goatee à la Trotsky, he was born in Herakleion, Crete, in 1934. He is a respected economist who has been extremely active in Parliament since his election as a Pasok deputy in 1977. He was the opposition rapporteur on the 1978 budget.

His top priority now will be to catch the tax evaders who according to the party's platform, deprive the state of £1,500m in unpaid taxes a year. It needs the money to make salaries index-linked, reduce taxes, and nationalize key industries.

from 1967 to 1974 she became an ardent anti-junta activist abroad and was successful in arousing international opinion against the Greek regime.

Returning home after the restoration of democracy, she joined Andreas Papandreu's Pasok Party but failed in her first bid to get elected to Parliament in 1974. She was elected in 1977 and became the party's expert on cultural issues.

Tall, blonde and beautiful, she has a captivating, ebullient personality and a great drive for work. She is married to Jules Dassin who directed most of her films.

Antonis Tritsis

What will eventually make or break Antonis Tritsis, the energetic new Minister of the Environment, Town Planning and Housing is the "cloud" that yellowish-brown cloud of smog that shrouds Athens on windless days, making the life of its three million inhabitants miserable. He says: "We will take drastic action soon."

A town-planner who graduated from the Athens Polytechnic and obtained his doctorate at Illinois University, Tritsis is one of Pasok's founding members. He was largely responsible for drafting the section on the environment and town-planning in the party's programme.

Born on the island of Cephalonia in 1936, he was a first-rate athlete and Greek decathlon champion. During the dictatorship he joined Andreas Papandreu's clandestine resistance organisation PAK, and after 1974, he joined the party.

He is professor of planning at the post-graduate institute of regional development in the Panteion Graduate School, and after experiencing one failure in the 1977 elections, he became deputy for his native Cephalonia this year.



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Environment

Can the glory that was Greece be restored?

Politicians as a breed are peculiarly prone to selective memories. If not amnesia, Party manifestos change complexion and content at the whim of a change in the political wind. There is every chance, however, that the new Greek Government is preparing to act on a very important clutch of promises it made to the electorate. If it falters it has its own party banner there to remind it — the green of growth, of life, and the symbolic young family with its face turned to the rising sun.

Last week Mr Papandreu outlined his Government's policy on conserving the environment, an issue which although already legislated on, has been far less active. He said that their goal would be ecological and demographic reconstruction of the regions, involving a long-term strategy to reverse "the catastrophic course" that had led to a waste of natural resources. Immediate steps would be taken to combat pollution, and first and foremost "the cloud", as the Athenians describe the cloak of smog which regularly envelops their city. It has provided Greece with its single most emotive issue to catch the international conscience, the steady erosion of the Parthenon by dried sulphuric acid, the notorious "black rain", by which Athenians get back interest on the 150,000 tons of sulphur dioxide they pour into the atmosphere each year.

Greek Philomina (love of honour) has persuaded the Government to withdraw gracefully from the embarrassment of the UNESCO Acropolis appeal and to underwrite the rest of the restoration itself. Titanium metal supports have been inserted in the Erechtheion and in the porch of the Caryatids, the mould for the replacement statuary of which was provided by the British Museum. The museum also sent Professor George Donatas, Director of Antiquities of the Acropolis, resinous glass fibre casts taken from moulds made by Lord Elgin of a group of figures from the west pediment, which have since deteriorated badly.

While attention has focused on, and available funds have been channelled into, the fight for the Acropolis, another site, as important for its period as the Parthenon is for fifth century Athens, has languished, important restoration work uncompleted. It is the group of churches in Thessaloniki, which possess the finest collection of early Byzantine mosaics outside Kariye Camii in Istanbul. The churches were grievously damaged in the 1978 earthquake, including the Rotunda, the largest surviving circular Roman building after the Pantheon. Ironically, the staircase, which has been built into the thickness of the wall to enable visitors to get a close look at glittering tessellation, portraying saints, peacocks and temples, also weakened

the structure. Architects are strengthening the brick barrel with great iron hoops, and adding bracing, as in Aghia Sofia, the other major casualty, where, again, visitors could climb up to a gallery running round the dome, which showed an Ascension scene of fine quality.

Unfortunately, lack of skilled hands in the trickier aspects of mosaic restoration and shortage of money are likely to postpone the day when the mosaics are seen again.

Elliniki Etairia, the Greek National Trust, is playing an important part in stimulating an awareness of environmental issues, particularly among the young, and has cooperated with the National Tourist Board in its plan to restore five villages, each with a wealth of traditional architecture, and parts of which have been converted into hospice accommodation. Another initiative is to sponsor young architects, like Alexander and Haris Kalligas, who have won a Europa Nostra award for their work at the lovely Byzantine port of Monemvasia (from which the original Malmsey wine was exported). The society would also like to be able to sponsor restoration on a bigger scale — no less than the old town of Kithymon in Crete. With its minaret and town beach it offers a challenge, particularly as decay is still not beyond redemption.

But many Greeks now see whole stretches of their country, with or without ancient ruins, as inately valuable sites. In statement to *The Times*, Melina Mercouri, the new Minister of Culture said: "We do not separate culture from everyday life. Culture is the way we live; whether people speak Greek or talk in each other. It is the way we protect the air we breathe, or destroy that air."

The "cloud", of course, makes the minister's point perfectly, but for a country so closely linked with the sea, the crisis of ecology of the Mediterranean is particularly emotive issue. The algae which made the Aegean so "wine-dark" in Homer's day are under attack from widely-dispersed pollution.

Tourists complain about prices in fish tavernas. Yet if they go to a village which has not yet lost its traditional dependence on the sea — I have in mind the delightful village of Makrygaleos on the south-east coast of Crete — they cannot fail to get the point. We saw a calque crew's reward for a whole night's fishing: two small baskets of diminutive fish and two small dog sharks.

The Government has a plan, part of the "blue plan" for cleaning up the Mediterranean, which will establish marine parks; areas where fishing is prohibited and the sea bed is replenished with fish and plant life by means of gene banks. Anti-pollution laws may be expected to be applied much more rigorously.



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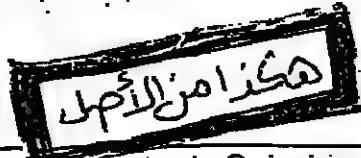
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THE ARTS

Dance in Washington

A score of problems

Wild Boy

Kennedy Center

Although Kenneth MacMillan has produced comparatively little for American Ballet Theatre over the years, he always seemed to have maintained some kind of honorary relationship with the company: a sort of resident choreographer in almost permanent absence. In 1967 he did create *Winter's Eve* for them and also *Journeys*, in a workshop production which was later taken into the company repertoire. The company has also had revivals of his Berlin Opera Ballet creation, *Concerto*, which remains in the current repertoire, as well as short-lived productions of his *Dances Concertantes* and *Las Hermanas*.

The prospect of a new MacMillan for the company was never less an exciting one, particularly as the creation came after a fallow season during which Mikhail Baryshnikov's first year as Ballet Theatre's artistic director, when it was decided to have no creations, concentrating merely on revivals and old repertoire. So much for hopes. They were almost ignominiously dashed to the ground at the Kennedy Center when the whole project, appearing not so much wild as crazy.

What one suspects went wrong was, in the first place, the choice of music. The score, by Gordon Crosse, was commissioned by the Oxford University Press to mark its quincentenary in 1978, and it was apparently inspired by Truffaut's film *L'Enfant sauvage*.

Whatever the music sounds like in the concert hall — it was first performed in the

beaten up and generally abused by all three of them, he is not unexpectedly disenchanted with "civilization".

This trio is — according to the programme note — a man, his wife and his best friend. Both men have sex with the wife, and with each other. Apart from this, holds-barred *ménage à trois*, and the nature child, there is also a corps de ballet of furry animals. These do not do very much, except line up in an orderly group across the stage and perform calisthenics: probably a lot better for them than the activities of the pygmies.

Also during the boy's seduction, they watch in the shadows. Once again I was reminded of the clowns in *Leiderstunde* nearly 30 years ago — who also stood and watched a betrayal and a disillusionment, that failure of an outsider to come in out of the cold.

Oliver Smith's decor is somewhat gloomy. It looks like the second act of *Giselle* transposed into a primeval rain forest — but Willa Kim's skimpy costumes, resembling underwear for chic, argue against their effectiveness. And the choreography is far from unimagined.

In his solos, particularly those for Baryshnikov in the title role, MacMillan is in top form. The second act of *Giselle* transposed into a primeval rain forest — but Willa Kim's skimpy costumes, resembling underwear for chic, argue against their effectiveness. And the choreography is far from unimagined.

Queen Elizabeth Hall — as the background to a ballet it does not have very much substance. Its was eclectic, and its relentless mediocrity, cast a pall over the whole proceedings. MacMillan seems hamstrung in this monopoly of his musical choice, which must dictate the form and substance of the ballet.

While rejecting earlier concepts by Truffaut and Werner Herzog, MacMillan maintains the idea of the wild boy, the savage child brought up by animals and then forced into the apparent straitjacket of supposed civilization. To MacMillan the character must have seemed familiar. So many of his ballets have been concerned with the outsider, and who could be more of an outsider than this child of nature?

In several of his ballets, MacMillan has demonstrated what at times has seemed an almost prurient interest in bacchanalian sex. This element perhaps first appeared in the bizarre diversions in *The Invitation*, reaching what appeared to be its apogee in the sweaty clutches of *Isadora*. The wild child is apparently appalled by the sexual freedom and equality of the gypsy culture that captures him. First ensnared by two brutalized men, and then seduced by a lissom woman, only to be

beat up and generally abused by all three of them, he is not unexpectedly disenchanted with "civilization".

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Baryshnikov's Wild Boy, with Makarova (right)

Dance in London

Chances for youth

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

There were so many newcomers to leading roles in all four works on the Royal Ballet's mixed bill at Covent Garden on Saturday that the programme could almost have been subtitled *Opportunity Knocks*. Jerome Robbins's two-handers, *Afternoon of a Faun*, was completely recast twice, matinee and evening, and (at the choreographer's insistence, one gathers) entirely with very young dancers, still in or only just out of their teens.

Robbins's modern-day setting, you may remember, replaces and parallels Debussy's faun and nymph with two dancers, innocently involved on a hot afternoon in an otherwise empty ballet studio. Ravenna Tucker, at the matinee, brought out particularly well the narcissistic quest of the girl, wrapped up in the effect of her own movements, with Guy Niblett catching the sensuousness of the young man.

They were good, but the other two were even better. Alessandra Ferri finds a hint of completely innocent wantonness in the girl, almost willing her unexpected rehearsal partner to plant the kiss on her cheek that ends the idyll. She and David Peden both seemed to be experiencing the event rather than performing it, so complete was the absorption with which they watched their own and each other's tentative gestures in the imaginary studio mirror across the front of the stage.

In *Illuminations*, Stephen Jeffries brought a new and

entirely convincing emphasis to the poet, struggling with an almost apoplectic rage to impose his own interpretation on the chaotic world around him, using anger and mockery as weapons. The final, wounded departure took on a keener intensity.

Unfortunately his two contrasted muses, also new to their parts, proved less convincing. Pippa Wyldie achieved a degree of serenity in the "Being Beateux"; interlude; closer acquaintance with the part, together with a less bland make-up, could make a big difference. But Marguerite Porter's flouncing coquetry completely misses the point of the poet's profane love.

Kenneth Bowen's careful account of the songs is also no substitute for Robert Tear's expressive understanding.

The solos from *Napoli* had one newcomer each time: Stephen Sheriff starting the third solo exceptionally well but not sustaining that all through, and Nicola Robert's confirming the promise she has shown in smaller parts. The *Napoli* dances as a whole are beginning to draw a welcome liveliness from all their performers.

In MacMillan's Shostakovich *Concerto*, Ashley Page's strong attack brightened the first movement and Genesia Rossato's zest was notable in the third, both the mainstays. At the evening performance, the main interest shifted to established dancers, Jennifer Penney and Lesley Collier demonstrating what some of the company's old hands can bear comparison with the bright new talent that is emerging.

John Percival

Theatre

The Pickle Family Circus

Round House

For any Riverside spectator who may have thought the San Francisco Mime Troupe a freak exception to the American rule, here is another. The Mime Troupe defectors — who give a far more impressive display of traditional theatre skills.

Whether or not this has any connection with the move from political satire into social realism, the Mime Troupe's circus operates as a fund-raising charity, the show transmits the unfakeable sense of dazzling individual talents held together by a common purpose. As their names suggest, size has something to do with this. This is a pocket show, on the same scale as the Round House's *Circus Oz*. There are no animals, no exploding motor cars, no plastic snakes: there is simply a company of specialists who know their business and also know how to act, backed with a band who can take flight with Charlie Parker or improvise tarantellas for the clowns.

Larry Pisoni and Peggy Sneider set the opening pace with competitive juggling, building up speed and difficulty, flicking each other's clubs, and winding up with a piece of marksmanship. To make William Tell eat his heart out. From this level the show proceeds to build with unicycle riding on the slack wire, multiple simultaneous

trampoline back somersaults, and the trapeze work of Wendy Parkman at which it is quite hard not to shut your eyes and send up prayers for her survival.

Between most of these numbers, Mr Pisoni staggers on from behind the curtain carrying a large box on his back (the number of boxes increases every time) and dropping it with a grateful thump. Out of the box appears a nose, the size and shade of a frankfurter, shortly followed by the yellow-clad figure of Geoff Hoyle, alias Mr Sniff. At one point in the evening there are no fewer than five Mr Sniffs popping out of the boxes and round the curtain, but there is no mistaking the real one. Here is a genuine living mask from which the National Theatre's puppet company could learn a thing or two. The dislocated walk, the furtive eyes, the way the body swells in hope and shrivels in defeat, all derive from the nose.

In his main number, Sniff sets out to play a piece of Bach, for which he erects a 12-foot music stand which he can only reach with the help of his box and a chair. The imaginary peril he develops from those two props are as alarming as the trapeze act, and exhaust every comic permutation of the end, triumphantly extracting a midget violin from a double bass case, he gets to play his gavotte. Which goes to show that noses are hopeful and get what they want in the end.

Irving Wardle

Cinders

Theatre Upstairs

Caught between Poland and an English borsal, Janusz Glowacki's play never arrives in one place or the other. So thoroughly is it adapted into English by Hanif Kureishi, from a translation by Christina Paul, it only occasionally shows flashes of the strangeness of another country. With many plays, the transfer of cultures would be desirable, but *Cinders* is a hybrid of Polish forms, rife with specific references to the liberal West and a film festival in West Germany, and politically allusive in the honoured Eastern European tradition of absurdism.

It takes place in a Polish reform school for girls, and the basic idea quickly crosses borders: the voyeurism of the media is under attack. A school production of *Cinderella* has captured the imagination of a film-maker, who sees his chance to probe into the lives and crimes of the girls acting out the fairy tale. The deputy head of the school, a corrupt, ambitious bureaucrat, sees the film as an advertisement for himself and coaches the girls into singing his praises, meanwhile procuring them for the film's director.

The flaw in their ambitions is the will-power of *Cinderella*, who refuses to cooperate in her own humiliation. All the cruel and absolute powers of the miniature state are brought to bear against her, to make her crack before the cameras, and it is that microcosm of political absolutism which becomes diffuse in the Theatre Upstairs.

If that missing dimension is ignored, there are ample rewards. Four professional actors share the performance with 14 performers from the Royal Court's young people's theatre scheme and Danny

Ned Chaillet

Tonight and Tomorrow at 7.15 in the Olivier

"Enchantment is the only word...this production triumphs"

Live Director, D. Telegraph

Much Ado About Nothing

Penelope Wilton as Beatrice, Plays & Players best actress of the year award is "irresistibly funny"

James Fenton, S. Times

"Michael Gambon's Benedick is a revelation"

Michael Gambon, F. Times

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Television

An inert pudding

An air of dull worthiness overhangs Yorkshire Television's *Celebrity Playhouse*. Beginning last week with Graham Greene's *gauche* and thin tale *The Potting Shed*, it continued last night with J. E. Priestley's Eden End, an everyday story of two bad actors who come into conflict with the outstandingly boring family of a Yorkshire doctor.

"Something happened that started me thinking about life," intones Dr Kirby, wearily plating one of Priestley's clumsy structural signposts in our path. The virtue of this one is at least that it signals some directional momentum away from the interminable clodhopping exposition consumed with author initially subjects us; but finally we are only led with deadening inevitability back to the drab leitmotif of the ringing telephone and an unthinking acceptance along the lines of "it takes all sorts."

But the acting did bring traces of flavour to this inert pudding. Georgina Hale was the best as Lillian. Conceived by Priestley as the sour snorter consumed with bitterness at her actress sister's pursuit of glamour, the character was broadened by Hale's nasal and incisive delivery into a more intellectual and rigorous dimension. She thus sharpened the point of the contrast between cosmopolitan and provincial as Stella, the actress, a broader range in which to operate a task she duly fulfilled.

Robert Stephens, one of the few actors to have mastered fully the correct use of saliva, was suitably rougish as Charles, Stella's estranged husband, but Priestley's somewhat narrow conception of shallow worldliness left him little scope to raise the temperature much beyond tepid.

John Will, who brought us *Johnny Go Home* and *Rampton* — the *Secret Hospital* has now delivered a dramatized vision of suffering humanity with *Brotherhood*. On the (ITV) he has drawn the autobiography of a farm labourer, Fred Kitchen. Set in 1904, it shows how Kitchen was introduced to the trade, rejected it to become a railway fitter, but finally returned to the land. Will's cameras stare bleakly at the physical hardships and lyrically at the lush rural landscape in which only the humans seen to be having a rough time. The 14-year old hero, played by Graham Hill, is consoled by his love for the "osses" with which he finally learns to plough but oppressed by the sadistic Missus who employs him.

It is all straightforwardly adequate stuff, but no more enlightening than many another television recreation of the bad old days. And Kitchen's explicitly political conclusion, that there was something wrong with a system that allowed a farmer to buy a car for a boy's life for £15, sat uncomfortably alongside the film's depiction of his returning to the land as a good life after the railway.

Bryan Appleyard

Nash Ensemble

Wigmore Hall

Tchaikovsky's string sextet *Souvenir de Florence* is no picture postcard from Tuscany; rather, an expression of the warmth and vitality that the city aroused in the composer. Understandably this lengthy work, hugely demanding on its exponents' energy and skill, is a rarity. In its latter half especially uncommonly keen advocacy is needed, for the invention is fairly slender, both in the intermezzo-like scherzo and the finale, where, however, fugue excursions lend weight and density.

Intellectual density, that is, of physical density there is a shortage. In fact the almost constant activity of all six players provides excessively full and busy textures, with long stretches pursuing particular patterns. Sometimes these pose a difficulty, as the Nash Ensemble, though they carried off the work with splendid verve, brought limited imagination to the handling of Tchaikovsky's sonatas, and to the elucidation of spirit of the first movement; if their leader, in particular, played coolly in the Adagio, its richly textured sentiment was clear enough.

Saturday's recital was in the Nash's Russians-tum-Mozart series. The other Russian was Balakirev, represented by the surviving movement of an early octet. To signal the name, horn and strings, it belongs in a line of descent through Hummel and Mendelssohn: for the most part the piano provides a busy background of passage-work, while the others partake of various kinds of dialogue. But Balakirev's folk-music proclivities were already there, as witness the curious, unmistakably

Music in London

Muti's move

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In the concertos his soloists manifested discontent. Peter Lee Cox did his utmost to instil some spirit into the fifth Brandenburg and would himself, I decided, have led a happier performance from the harpsichord: he clearly jibbed at the dull tempi set for him and to which Tina Gruenberg also showed impatience. In the Vivaldi, with the lacklustre tempi set for these marvellous evocations of mankind amid changing nature.

William Mann

Robin Canter

Wigmore Hall

Word has not got about that Robin Canter is an obnoxious front rank, to judge by the pitifully small audience assembled for this recital. Or perhaps the prospect of a whole evening of oboe music looked too much of a sorry thing. It was not at all, though, and not merely because Mr Canter had the notion of playing his romantic repertoire on a period instrument and his twentieth-century pieces on a modern one, even going to the trouble and expense of providing himself with two oboes: Richard Burnett on a cheerful mid-nineteenth-century piano and Linn Hendry on the customary Steinway.

One unfortunate effect of this was that it compartmentalized the programme. Another was that it obliged Mr Canter to play the whole first half on an instrument that was less than perfectly reliable and certainly less than ingratiating, with its habit of sounding like a muted trumpet. Thus, although it was possible to admire some long-spun phrasing in Schumann, there were too many barriers of efficiency and taste for the performance to be comfortably enjoyed. As so often, the period instruments were much more happily engaged in third-rate music: a dashing sonatina by Walmisley, Cambridge prodigy and contemporary of Schumann.

There were other novelties. Elisabeth Lutyens's *Morning Sea*, commissioned for the occasion, began with sluggish movement in the oboe and rose to flights of fantasy in the oboe. And then came a small masterpiece: a concertino by Skalkottas, intended to have a wind ensemble accompany, but left in piano score. The rather Bergian march that starts the work and the sprightly finale are near the slow movement is something that time itself stopped to listen to. Mr Canter is a continuously voyaging melody.

Paul Griffiths

Music in Paris

Does Boulez really need electronics?

There is a certain grim earnest in Pierre Boulez's choice of title for his latest composition, *Repons*. On one level, the name draws attention to the musical questioning and answering, presenting and transforming, that goes on here as in so many of his other works. But more deeply the piece is a first response by Boulez to the electronic technology with which he has chosen to surround himself for the last four years in his institute for musical research in Paris. And still more significantly, it is a determined reply to all those who have declared him finished as a composer.

Suddenly, after five years of total silence, he has produced in *Repons* a big work for six instrumental soloists, small orchestra and extremely sophisticated electronic apparatus, one lasting for 20 minutes with the firm promise of similar length still to be added. It is the breakthrough for Boulez we have been hoping for. But, on the evidence of last week's performance, conducted by the composer, in the Maison de la Culture in the Paris suburb of Bobigny, following the world premiere at the Donaueschingen Festival in October, the achievement does not quite match — at least not yet — the huge investment of machinery, expertise and effort.

Repons does, however, give us a reason for Boulez's very limited output since the bright days of the late Fifties. What he was waiting for were the facilities for using electronic music reliably and subtly, with fine control. Unlike Stockhausen, who was not prepared to make do with equipment that was still rudimentary, and the history of his dealings with electronic music became one of disappointment.

In *Repons* the mastery of the electronic medium is complete, thanks to the long period Boulez has given himself to become acquainted with the computer equipment in his laboratories, and thanks also to the interface between composer and technology provided for him by his assistant, Anthony Garzo. However, Boulez has tamed the electronic beast only by relegating it to a small corner of his work. *Repons* is essentially an orchestral work in its conception and its substance; the electronic contribution, despite the banks of machinery, the bevy of operators and the dozen loudspeakers surrounding the audience, is hardly more than decorative.

Indeed, for the first ten minutes of the piece there is nothing electronic to be heard at all. Instead we are offered a beautifully woven skein of music by the 24 players in the central orchestra, a tangled play of suggestion and counter-suggestion, preparatory in the sense that it seems to call for more, and does so with wave-like intensity. And then, when something more arrives, the effect is electrifying beyond all expectation. In jangled concord from around the hall come the resplendent resonances of the soloists — two pianos, harp, cymbal, vibraphone and xylophone — all amplified and bathed in further reverberation by the electronics.

Boulez himself has described the zig-zag as a principal image of *Repons*, and indeed the work is filled with allegro figures that criss-cross spectra of pitch and timbre. Here, at the point where the soloists enter, the impression is of a

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(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BRITISH FUNDS										COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL										FINANCIAL TRUSTS										INSURANCE										INVESTMENT TRUSTS										PROPERTY										RUBBER										MISCELLANEOUS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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مكازم للأعمال

Food sales head for Christmas record

Despite the recession and high unemployment, Britons will spend a record £2,000m on food this Christmas, eating 11 million turkeys and Christmas pudding worth more than £17m.

Christmas fare is big business for exporters too. For example, container loads of Christmas puddings and turkeys, as well as crackers, decorations and funny hats have been sent to Arab countries.

The goodies are mainly for British workers in the Middle East, but shops in the Gulf States are finding that a surprising number of Arabs are also interested.

Britons in the Gulf apparently attach even greater importance to a traditional Christmas than when they are at home and their enthusiasm is rubbing off on their Arab neighbours.

In fact, sales of traditional Christmas puddings are growing worldwide. The Ford company is now sending puddings to the United States, Canada, the West Indies, France, Gibraltar and New Guinea.

The French have been sold on "Le Christmas pudding" since an Army surplus consignment was sold after the First World War.

Food manufacturers expect record sales as people stock up because of the long holiday this year, with Christmas and New Year stretching over 10 days and two weekends.

The poultry industry expects many families to order a second bird apart from the traditional turkey, and plans to sell about 5.5m chickens and as many as half a million capons.

SHARP RISE IN IMPORTS BY AIR

By Bill Johnston

The United Kingdom is still heavily dependent on sea transport despite a sharp upturn in the amount of British imports carried by air during 1980. More than 75 per cent of the trade with the United Kingdom is carried by sea in terms of value, which represents nearly 95 per cent by weight.

An article published this week by the Departments of Industry and Trade in the magazine, *British Business*, says that United Kingdom imports by air have shown a sharp rise. Last year they rose to 18.2 per cent, worth £931m, a rise of 2.5 per cent on the previous year. Exports carried by air dropped during the year from their 1979 level by 0.4 per cent to 18.1 per cent, worth £884m.

Trade with the EEC still represents a substantial proportion of that conducted by Britain. Imports during 1980 were worth £20,545m, and exports were slightly lower at £20,435m. In both cases goods worth more than £17,000m were carried by sea.

The rest of Western Europe is the next principal customer for British trade with imports of £8,106m and exports of £7,949m.

Buy British plea by CBI

A new "Buy British" campaign is launched today by the Confederation of British Industry to try to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment. The results of its exhortations are to be reported to a conference on "Thinking and selling British" to be held in the spring.

The move has been led by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, who has made a special report to the CBI council outlining the board's special policy aimed at stimulating United Kingdom suppliers to quote competitively.

Sir Derek said that 97.4 per cent of the NCB's total spending of £983m on goods and services in 1981-82 had gone to British suppliers.

Stock Markets

FT Index 521.3
FT 100 62.06
FT All Share 309.22
Bargains 12.403

Sterling

\$1.8800
Index 90.0
New York: \$1.8860

Dollar

Index 107.9
DM 2.2860

Gold

\$416.75 up 25 cents
New York: \$412.70

Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/8-15 1/4
3 mth Euro 513 1/2-514
6 mth Euro 514 1/2-515

(Friday's close)

Industry faces grim outlook for New Year

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Continuing stagnation of output levels in Britain's factories, which remain starved of orders, particularly from domestic customers, is the grim assessment of New Year prospects from the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI's monthly trends survey, published this morning, contains little Christmas cheer for industrialists, and shows that 65 per cent of manufacturing companies expect their production volumes to remain at their present depressed level, at least for the next four months.

Looking back over the past year, CBI economists believe that despite the more buoyant picture shown by official Government statistics, output has been flat since the late spring and there are few signs of the hoped for improvement.

The only consolations for industrialists who face added difficulties if there is a national strike by miners in February are that orders from overseas are still on the increase and that domestic selling prices will continue to rise in the coming months.

The CBI's latest survey, which covers 1,754 respondents, confirms the organisation's view in November that the economy will pick up only slowly next year, and that there will be a modest 1 per cent recovery output. At home, according to the latest survey, 21 per cent of companies regard their present stocks of finished goods as more than adequate, with only three per cent regarding them as less than adequate.

Treasury forecasts 'over-optimistic'

By Frances Williams

Treasury forecasts published earlier this month contain over-optimistic and complacent assumptions on world trade growth next year, according to Dr Paul Nield, chief economist with Phillips and Drew, stockbrokers.

Exports are less buoyant than the Treasury predicts — up 2 1/2 per cent next year — after a 5 1/2 per cent fall this year — the official forecast for economic growth in the whole economy of one per cent may also prove optimistic.

In a note published today with Phillips and Drew's monthly *World Investment Review*, Dr Nield claims that the Treasury has assumed "away" the world recession. Its forecast, which accompanied the Chancellor's economic statement on December 2, of growth between 1 1/2 and 2 per cent in the main industrial countries in 1982 compares with nearer one per cent expected by the stockbrokers.

The Treasury has also

EEF move to halt decline in members

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The politically-influential Engineering Employers' Federation is considering a two-tier membership scheme to attract back businesses that do not want to take part in its role in determining wages throughout the industry.

The federation's policy committee will be asked next month to consider measures being proposed by Mr Anthony Frodsham, the outgoing director-general, aimed at stemming the haemorrhage of member companies.

The economic recession has put many engineering companies out of business and the well-publicised resignation of companies such as Philips, BL and GEC has prompted the federation to rethink its membership rules. The 6,000 companies of the federation and its regional federations must adhere to the national agreement on minimum rates for skilled and unskilled engineering workers, and risk being caught up in confrontation of the kind that occurred across the industry in 1979 over the shorter-working week now being introduced.



Anthony Frodsham: plans to change federation

Such an obligation has caused the "market share" of possible membership to tumble from 62 per cent to just over 50 per cent in the last two years.

Member companies account for 1.5 million engineering workers out of an estimated total of 2.5 million, whereas just before the confrontation over shorter hours with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the comparable figure was about 2.2 million out of 2.3 million.

Under the Frodsham plan, an option to take out associate membership may be floated to halt the decline, allowing companies to take full advantage of its many functions without forcing them to implement a national agreement on pay.

Mr Frodsham, who makes way for Dr James Macfarlane, in two months said: "The federation must change. With my departure, it must consider what the future should be. This is an excellent time to look ahead."

Little interest in two prime properties

HQ buildings go begging

By Baron Phillips

There is little interest being shown in the headquarters buildings of two of the nationalised industries now on the market, despite the efforts of two leading London estate agents.

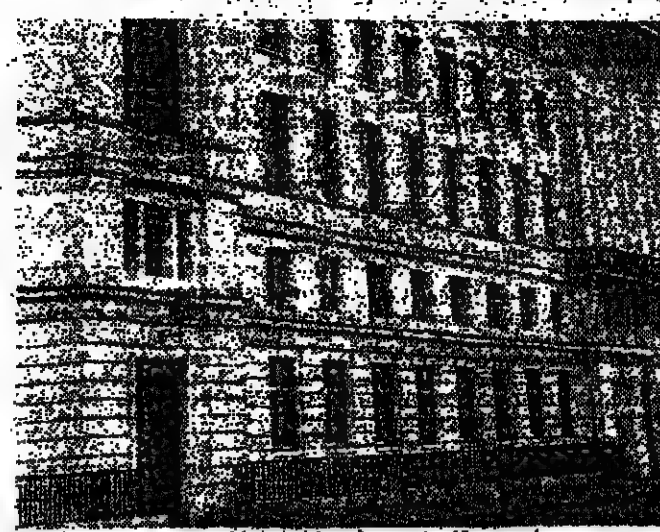
The Post Office has been trying to find a buyer for its 120,000 sq ft head office on the edge of the City at St Martins Le Grand for several years.

Over in Victoria, cut-cutting measures at British Steel have meant the corporation's looking for a new tenant for its 175,000 sq ft building in Grosvenor Place.

At first glance, both buildings appear to be excellent investments, although Weatherall Green & Smith who are handling the disposal of the Post Office building have had few serious would be buyers. Recent reports of the Victorian block being acquired by a hotel group have been dismissed by the Post Office.

The Post Office said the building was not being actively marketed although serious offers would be considered. When the block came on the market in 1979, the corporation was trying to dispose of it through a sale and leaseback deal. Since then there has been a change of heart.

It now appears that the Post Office would prefer to vacate the sprawling building, which sits on a 1.1 acre



British Steel's headquarters in Victoria is potential profit earner

site close to St Paul's, and relocate its staff. Experts predict a sale figure of between £16m and £17m. The site alone could be worth between £2m-£3m but extensive refurbishment would have to be undertaken.

In Victoria, Jones Lang Wootton are looking for a tenant to fill the accommodation vacated by the steel corporation. The steel corporation still has more than half its 30 year lease to run and is reportedly paying £4 a sq ft. Rent in Victoria is between £15 and £17 a sq ft which would give British Steel a substantial profit rent on a sub-letting.

As much as £2m a year profit could be made on the rent at present but there is a clause in the lease means that the corporation will not be paying more than £12 a sq ft because the landlord cannot do more than triple the existing rent.

Agreement on formula for textiles

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, Dec 20

Spurred on by a last ditch conclusion that an imperfect Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) is better than none and the imminent expiry on December 31 of the existing one, the European Community and main Third World exporters have spent the weekend hammering out a compromise formula.

The sole point remaining concerns guarantees to make sure dominant suppliers, particularly Hongkong, South Korea and Taiwan will stick to the rules on basic quotas.

If the text is not specific there must be guarantees one way or the other, an EEC official said today. He was referring to point six in the compromise conclusions, presented to delegates yesterday by Mr Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, after four days of closed door discussions with the main groups.

The wording notes the intention of leading suppliers to reach mutually acceptable solutions to problems "relative to particularly large restraint levels" but the Community members, especially France and the United Kingdom are seeking more specific clauses.

Where the surge mechanism — for curbing sudden rises in imports from the Third World — is concerned, the agreement is broadly compatible with the Community mandate.

Check bank charges, motor trade urged

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

More than 3,000 motor agents are being asked to supply confidential details of their bank charges after reports of wide variations in practices and a surprising lack of banking knowledge in the motor trade.

The survey is being conducted by Ronald Sewell and Associates, the Bank management consultants who number some of the largest dealer groups in the country among their clients.

In a statement Sewell said: "Consultancy assignments with motor traders have revealed such wide variations in bank charges that we have decided to survey the whole country. Any trader who has not been mailed direct can apply for a confidential form direct from us."

Dealers are asked to check "experience" of one Sewell client, who reported that he was paying 50p for each visit to the counter plus 30p for each cheque paid. It was also being charged 35p for each cheque drawn.

Sewell believes that considerable savings will be made by dealers who shop around the banks. But first, they want to supply them with reliable information about the practices of the more competitive banks. Included in the survey are questions about the interest charged for hard core borrowings (the level below which the overdraft seldom falls) and for short-term, fluctuating overdrafts.

There is better news, however, for motor trade managers and senior staff in a Sewell survey entitled "Broad Spectrum Job Comparison". It

says that although earnings have dropped noticeably behind the average increase in other industries last year, next year should bring a faster rate of pay rises.

This will follow the extensive "blinking-down" forced on most traders this year which should not result in improved trading. The survey suggests that dealers will now be able to tackle two of their most pressing problems — a shortage of well-trained managers, and the refusal of many to move because of uncertainties in the housing market, and poor trading levels.

Also pinpointed are two developing trends. A growing number, but yet a minority, of companies has switched to high salary — no commission schemes, using more performance monitoring. Where commissions are still paid, however, there are wide variations.

Parts, service, and general managers (who are paid 75 per cent salary, and 25 per cent as commission. Sales managers, on the other hand, earn a much bigger percentage of their earnings as commission.

Company cars now seem to be a standard "perk" but many companies permit anomalies that create discord among staff. This includes a tendency to allocate second cars to executives earning more than £12,000 a year.

Petrol allowances to travel to work, are also on the increase as are pension, life assurance, and private health insurance schemes.

Broad Spectrum Job Comparison is available from Ronald Sewell and Associates, 1 Queen's Square, Bath, Price £5 (inc p & p).

Machine tool industry faces more closures

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Britain's beleaguered machine tool industry faces no early improvement in its prospects, with resulting increases in unemployment in the next few years and more company closures.

This is the gloomy forecast made by ICC Business Ratios after a study of the financial results of 98 of the leading companies in the sector. Its report, published today, says the industry has suffered declining profitability in recent years and the number of loss makers will continue to accelerate, possibly having doubled in the last year.

The report coincides with publication of the latest Government compiled statistics for machine tools, which paint a slightly more optimistic picture. For the period between June and September rose by 15.5 per cent, with new orders from domestic customers making a significant contribution for the first time in many months.

According to the Department of Industry, the machine tool home order book expanded in September — the first increase for over two years — but the trend of home orders on hand is still drifting downwards.

While export orders are still sluggish, the trend estimate in September was 50 per cent higher than last December and orders from

Hopes for US gold standard fading

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Dec 20

The glister of gold as a cure for persistent inflation is beginning to fade in the Reagan Administration, even among ardent supply-side economists who regard it as the foundation of a stable monetary system.

Last week, for example, at the fourth meeting of the United States Gold Commission, the possibility of returning to the gold standard was ridiculed by distinguished witnesses.

Their arguments were tied directly to the deepening United States recession. With interest rates falling and inflation subsiding, they saw no need to return to gold.

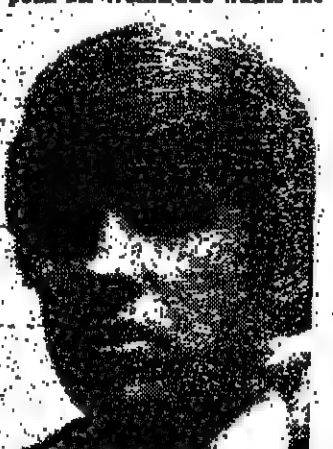
Even Mr Jack Kemp, a leading Congressional advocate of the gold standard, said recently that the timing was wrong for a return to gold.

"What we have now is a classic orthodox slowdown in the economy, on a recession. So gold is the agenda for the moment," Mr Kemp said.

This does not mean, however, that United States "gold bugs" have lost their zest for monetary reforms of the kind the national gold standard in America over the role of gold will come to nothing. Some new pronouncements on gold are still likely.

"Soon to come" is the final report of the United States Gold Commission, appointed by Congress in 1980 to study uses of gold in the economy and report its findings by the end of next March. The committee, headed by Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the Treasury Secretary, is not expected to support a return to the gold standard but is nonetheless expected to advocate a new, larger role for gold in the United States monetary system.

A compromise submitted to the Commission by Mr Robert Weintraub, senior economist of the Congressional Joint Committee, appears to be gaining support. Mr Weintraub wants the



Kemp: Gold standard is off the agenda

United States Government to use the 8,000-tons of gold stored at Fort Knox to support a certain percentage of United States currency, thus creating a "gold-backed" device leading to imposition of a full gold standard later.

The percentage of currency is not yet worked out, but Mr Weintraub claims that when it is, the effect will be a bid on money growth which will stop inflation.

His position appears to have some support among middle level White House aides searching for a way for President Ronald Reagan to please conservative supporters who remember his campaign pledge to restore the country to a dependable monetary system.

Mr Reagan has said repeatedly that the country can survive without a gold standard and he reiterated this position recently when he met Mr Ron Paul at the White House.

Mr Paul, a right-wing Conservative who fears "paper money" and wants the United States to return to a system of gold coins, apparently surprised the President by informing him that the Gold Commission was seeking a return to the gold standard.

Still, few senior White House officials support a return to the gold standard and although Mr Reagan continues to make favourable comments, it is unlikely his Administration will support the hard-line position of gold fanatics such as Mr Paul who exhorts constituents to hold on to their coins and store food in preparation for the "coming holocaust".

It is also unlikely that this Administration will abandon gold altogether, which explains the growing number of serious gold proposals in recent months.

Mr Henry Wallich, for example, a member of the Board of Federal Reserve, said last month that the debate over gold should not be dismissed as ridiculous. Instead it should be used as a springboard for a new official policy on gold.

MANAGEMENT

Auditing and the microcomputer revolution

Computer auditing is not new, it has been around since the late 1960s. What is new is the growth of mini and microcomputers in the smallest of trading companies, and the changes these have made to accounting and auditing.

Colin Peters, a computer audit partner with chartered accountants Dearden Farrow, runs courses in his subject for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

"More small businesses have been buying themselves microcomputers, and I think it's got to the stage where every auditor should be a computer auditor," he says. Peters believes that the judgment which is a vital part of the audit function can be exercised more competently using computer techniques which take a lot of the drudgery out of the process.

Without computers to do the spade-work, auditors are forced to rely on statistical techniques taking samples of transactions as a reflection of the state of affairs of a business.

By using computers transactions can be examined in full, thus improving the reliability of the audit check.

According to Peters, the planning stage is crucial with the installation of a computer at a small business. It is then, he says, that the company's auditor should get involved assisting his client to develop a computer programme which allows a more efficient check on the company's accounting results.

The auditor can make sure that important controls are built into the computer

programme. An example of this is the technique of exception reporting. This entails pre-programming a computer to report on any specified exception to normal transactions.

For example, company management and auditors could be informed whenever any employee receives say £400 or more in salary in any one week. A report would print out the details of who received this exceptional salary, when he received it and other information as required keeping management better informed on the company's operations.

From the auditor's point of view, exception reporting concentrates his attention on areas needing to be checked. Rather than work through a majority of correct and approved sales, or purchases or salaries, the computer flags items for close inspection.

Even in the large international companies which have been computerized for some years, there is room for progress. Andrew Warren, national audit computer services partner at international accounting firm Deloitte Haskins and Sells, says that the major developments are in small computers. Micro-

computers, he says, are having a huge impact on small companies and divisions of large companies. "It's possible for auditors to sit in their offices and audit remotely the computer files of their clients by plugging into his client's system, but it's not widespread practice," he says.

The technology has been available for some years, but only few businesses make this kind of audit.

Though the idea is attractive because it cuts out travelling and accommodation costs, many companies object to outsiders, including their external auditors, interfering with their computer files.

One often used option is for the auditors to take their computerized audit packages to the client and run the programme against the client's files.

Computer auditors believe banks and insurance companies, which are at the forefront of electronic office technology, will be the first to use the remote audit widely. Insurance company records for example are often so thoroughly computerized that paper policies and deeds are found only in the hands of policyholders.

For their own records, the insurers store policy information on computer tape.

The paperless office, where all transactions are made and recorded on computer files, could soon be popular.

For auditors, increasing technological sophistication means training more staff in basic and advanced computer audit techniques. In the past, many firms used separate, highly qualified specialist groups of computer auditors to assess the computer controls of their clients. These experts would write the programme of audit tests to be carried out by the less skilled (and less expensive) general auditing staff.

Many leading firms have moved to a system of training their newly-qualified staff in computer programming. This means the audit staff can produce tailor-made audit programmes to test their clients' systems.

The actual tests the auditor performs have not changed much since computer auditing was introduced. They must still test the controls within the system, just as non-computerized auditing depends on checking the effectiveness of a client's manual system of internal control of transactions on sales, purchases, stock and cash, as well as on capital items.

A spokesman for accountants Touche Ross says his firm's reason for reforming its system of having a central group of computer audit specialists was that computer specialists had become such a part of everyone's life most auditing required basic familiarity with the machines.

"All our staff have to be able to cope with computers up to a certain level. We give our students training in computer auditing alongside their other subjects so that you can't see the join."

"We've kept our specialists, but we've deliberately restricted them to a very small group."

The major issue for clients is audit cost and value for money. A recent report by the 100 Group of chartered accountants in industry, made up of financial directors from some of Britain's top companies, said that audit costs should be better controlled.

With the recession, auditors have found more than usual client resistance on the issue and have heard more demands for better value.

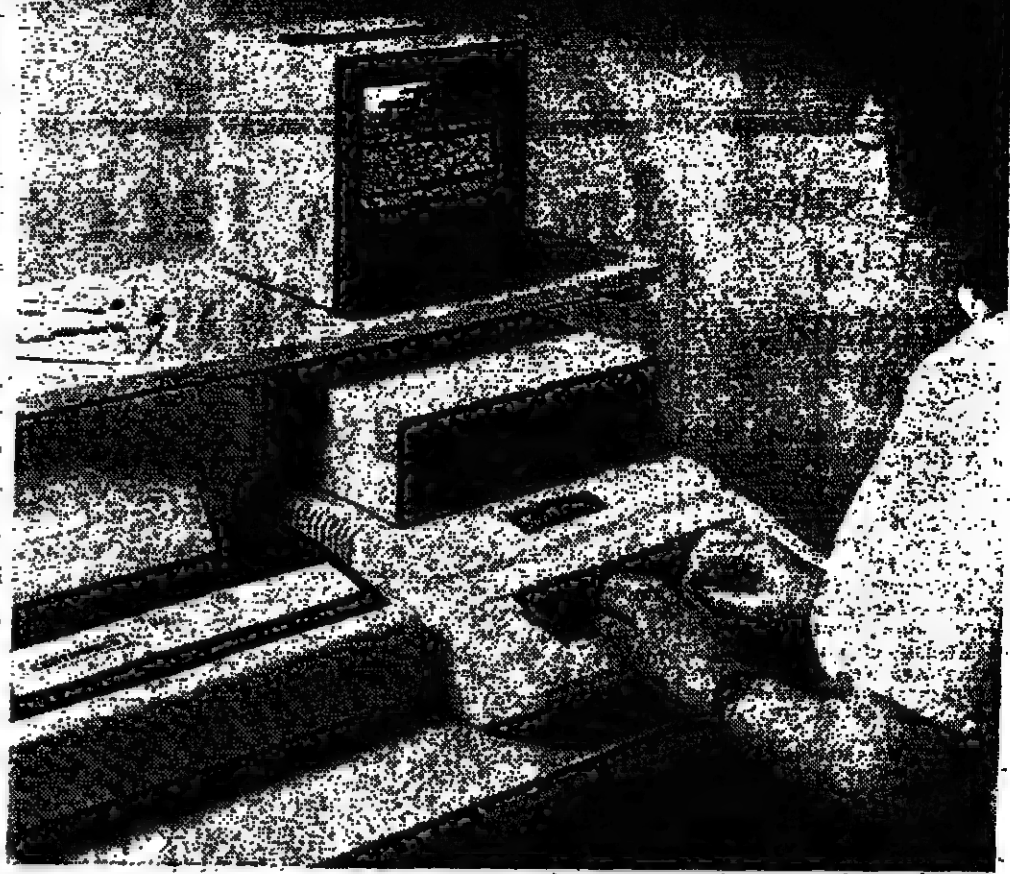
Among computer auditors, a consistent topic of debate is how much more intelligent and how much more valuable to a client does an audit become by using a computer.

One argument is that the auditor's opinion depends ultimately upon the trust he can place in the accounting system. And whereas non-computerized systems can be informal, computerized systems tend to be better defined and controlled and so are more heavily relied upon.

On the other hand, the more complex a computer system the more complex are the controls built into the system, and the less effective it can be to rely on the controls.

With the spread of microcomputers this argument is almost redundant as there may soon be no alternative to the computer audit.

Drew Johnston



Remote audits could become more common as companies move into electronic office technology, as demonstrated by this word/figure processing system.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Brewery sector holds the spotlight

As the approach of Christmas slows trading statements to a trickle, the brewery sector continues its reporting season this week with full-year profits from Grand Metropolitan and a half-year statement from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries.

The other notable company reporting is Trident Television, which last week forked out £14.5m for the British casino and betting office interests of the Playboy group, and weighed in tomorrow with full-year figures.

This week

Estimating Grand Metropolitan's profits for last year appears to have set analysts a poser with some speculating that its performance this time may have been exceptional. As presented the range of profits extends from £165m to £180m compared with £152.1m last year.

In the United States, the Liggett Group, and food interests should make further strong contributions, but any profit from the recently acquired International Hotels will be countered by the high interest charges resulting from the purchase.

At home, the group's brewing activities should show a small improvement after its recent cost-cutting exercise which has taken some of the pressure off margins. The leisure division, with its string of bookmakers, should also have improved, but wines and spirits and the hotels side are



Sir Maxwell Joseph, chairman of Grand Metropolitan

expected to have continued to slump along the bottom.

The total dividend should rise from 9.46p gross to about 10.4p.

The picture at Scottish & Newcastle Breweries is not so bright and there are expectations of another downturn in profits to around £18m compared with

£19.3m for the corresponding half of last year.

Faced with the continuing fall in beer sales, the group has stepped up its rationalization programme and made further redundancies. In addition its Hollywood brewery has cut production by about 50 per cent.

On top of this, S & N has

Laying up of tonnage gains favour

The season of goodwill has brought little joy to either freight markets with conditions so gloomy that both tanker and dry bulk carrier owners are looking seriously at laying up tonnage, the only way of combating overtonnage and low rate levels. The new year holds little prospect of any change in the current pattern, and while the severe winter in the northern hemisphere would

Freight

provide some short-term relief, brokers can only offer pessimistic forecasts for 1982 indicating another difficult year ahead.

Reflecting the present market were Lloyd's latest laying up tonnage figures, which registered increases for both tanker and dry cargo ships in December. As of December 25, 1981, 478 vessels totalling 12.4 tons gross were recorded representing a rise of 17 vessels of 1.1m tons in the last month. Dry cargo ships showed a much smaller rise going from 232 of 1.53 tons in November to 237 of 1.53m tons now.

Certainly on the performance levels of both markets during last week, thought of removing ships from trading must be high on the priority lists of several owners. A number of brokers reported companies either applying for or investigating lay-up sites.

David Robinson

Distillers

The Distillers Company p.l.c. presents the following unaudited report of the Group results for the half-year ended 30th September 1981.

The Board has declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March 1982 at the rate of 3p per share (last year same) absorbing £10.9 million. The dividend is payable on 26th February 1982 to shareholders on the register at 22nd January 1982.

	1981 Half-year to 30.9.81	1980 Half-year to 30.9.80
Based on historical cost		
TURNOVER (note 1)	£ million	£ million
	463.6	437.5
TRADING PROFIT	65.8	74.1
Income from investments	3.7	3.6
Financial charges	(2.4)	(1.2)
Share of profit (loss) of associated company	66.3	78.5
Surplus on realisation of investments	(2.3)	0.0
Translation differences on exchange	1.4	0.1
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	66.0	77.8
Taxation (note 2)	(21.6)	(23.8)
Minority shareholders' interests	0.2	(0.0)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	44.6	54.0
EARNINGS PER SHARE	12.26p	14.87p

	1981 £ million	1980 £ million
(1) Turnover		
Sales excluding duty - United Kingdom	115.9	117.1
- Other markets	221.6	209.9
Duty	126.1	110.5
	463.6	437.5

(2) Taxation
Taxation is based on an estimate of the effective rate of tax which will be payable on the profit of the year. The 1980 figure is restated on the basis of the actual effective rate of tax on last year's profit.

	1981 £ million	1980 £ million
Current cost accounting information		
Trading profit per historical cost accounts	65.8	74.1
Depreciation adjustment	(11.1)	(9.3)
Cost of sales adjustment	(24.7)	(27.6)
Monetary working capital adjustment	(1.6)	(1.8)
CURRENT COST OPERATING PROFIT	28.2	35.4
Income from investments	3.7	3.6
Share of operating loss of associated company	(4.3)	(3.2)
Interest on net borrowing	27.6	35.8
CURRENT COST PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	25.2	34.6
Taxation	(21.6)	(23.8)
Minority shareholders' interests	0.2	(0.0)
Gearing adjustment	3.8	11.2
CURRENT COST PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	5.8	13.6
CURRENT COST EARNINGS PER SHARE	1.50p	3.74p

Review of Trading

The extent to which distributors of our Scotch whisky and gin brands in export markets stocked up during the early months of 1981 in anticipation of price increases brought a particularly strong finish to the previous financial year. As a consequence trading in the six months under review has been correspondingly depressed. Moreover there is as yet no sign of recovery from the economic recession which prevails to a greater or lesser degree in most important markets of the world. The food and carbon dioxide interests have together maintained their position by comparison with last year but United Glass has continued in the loss situation which developed in the second half of 1980.

Future Prospects

The upturn in shipments which it was anticipated would follow the depletion of the excess stocks held by distributors at the beginning of this financial year has been disappointingly slow in coming and it is therefore apparent that we shall not achieve the volume targets which a few months ago appeared to be attainable. Accordingly, allowing for our portion of the United Glass loss and recognising that the price of BP shares does not encourage disposals, the pre-tax profit for the year as a whole must now be expected to fall below that of last year.

The Distillers Company p.l.c.

Both Royal bids may go through

There is a 50 per cent chance that the Monopolies Commission will allow both the Standard Chartered Bank and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to go ahead with bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland, says Wood Mackenzie in a detailed look at the three contestants in the £500m bid battle.

A decision on the two bids is due in the New Year. The Monopolies Commission has until the end of January, and the Hongkong and Shanghai Secretary of State for Trade, has not received its report.

Wood Mackenzie believes that allowing both bids would be the best decision because combination of Royal Bank with Hongkong Bank - the likely winner in an auction - would create a more important banking competitor in the United Kingdom.

If neither bid were allowed - rated a 30 per cent probability - shares in Royal Bank are likely to fall about

Brokers' views

80p and even though a successful bid could be close to Royal Bank's 200p asset value, Wood Mackenzie's analysis suggests that investors should hedge their bets by trimming large holdings. The reason is that left to itself Royal Bank would have to rethink its strategy of the last year, pursuing international expansion more vigorously and reassessing its stake in Lloyds Bank now has control. And all this at a time when domestic banking profits, on which Royal Bank relies, have passed their cyclical peak.

The other possible outcome, given only a 20 per cent chance, is that Standard Chartered alone will be allowed to proceed as the Bank of England wants. But

Wood Mackenzie has doubts about the wisdom of this saying it would mean increased management and financial risk and the loss of Standard's special investment status as an international bank without an unwieldy domestic network.

The merger would of course finally achieve Standard's aim of significant diversification away from its commonwealth base, in particular cutting dependence on South Africa but it would be a big strain on the balance sheet which is important because the Royal Bank Group will need investment.

In contrast, the Hongkong Bank, the world's biggest bank by market value, although only 33rd in terms of assets, is described as very liquid, unencumbered and having a broad equity base although the group's secret reserves prevent relevant ratios being calculated.

Peter Wilson-Smith

Lack of commitment slows trading

International dollar bond prices eased slightly last week in slow trading and indications that investors are reluctant to make commitments before the new year.

Market yields of seven out of the eight most recent straight dollar debt offerings were at 16.25 per cent or higher on Friday. In contrast, seasoned issues were yielding less than 15 per cent across the maturity range.

Normally, a certain amount of swapping of seasoned issues for new issues would narrow such a great yield disparity. However, traders said that very few of their clients were willing to make adjustments in their portfolios before the end of the year.

No straight debt offerings were announced during the week. However, a \$40m 15-year convertible Eurobond offering of L. M. Ericsson of the Swedish telephone and electronic equipment manufacturer, quickly sold out.

The issue was priced at per bearing 9.5 per cent. The conversion price was set at 5 per cent above the closing price of the shares on the Stockholm Stock Exchange at the time of the offering.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	Yield
Alcan 1982	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1983	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1984	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1985	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1986	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1987	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1988	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1989	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1990	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1991	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1992	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1993	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1994	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1995	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1996	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1997	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1998	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1999	100.00	12.75
Alcan 2000	100.00	12.75

Euromarkets

In September, L. M. Ericsson postponed a similar issue because its share price was depressed. In a sudden plunge of share prices on the Stockholm exchange. This time the issue was sold within 24 hours.

He attributed part of the success to the use of a British distribution technique in which the underwriters agree among themselves on the normal Eurobond distribution method, all underwriters can solicit business from the same institution.

The Eurobond underwriting technique is open to abuse as lenders can play one underwriter off against another to obtain the biggest discount from issue price.

Indeed, most Eurobond offerings are sold at discounts at least equal to the selling commission. This normally leaves underwriters with a skimpy 0.38 per cent fee and little incentive to support the issues they underwrite.

Weekly list of fixed-interest stocks

Stock	Price	Yield
Alcan 1982	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1983	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1984	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1985	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1986	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1987	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1988	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1989	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1990	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1991	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1992	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1993	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1994	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1995	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1996	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1997	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1998	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1999	100.00	12.75
Alcan 2000	100.00	12.75

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Alcan 1991	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1992	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1993	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1994	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1995	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1996	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1997	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1998	100.00	12.75
Alcan 1999	100.00	12.75
Alcan 2000	100.00	12.75

مكازم الامم

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Why Poland should be supported

With the Polish crisis at a critical stage, this is no time for Western banks to play poker by holding out the Russian card. Currently this is broadly the position taken by United States banks who maintain that the Polish authorities' request for a \$350m loan to repay due interest, is a ploy designed to squeeze more money from the West.

Poland is financially sounder than she would have the West believe, goes the American theory, and anyway, the Soviet Union is a willing lender of last resort. So why fall for this latest plea from a country which has borrowed \$17,000m (£9,050m) from Western banks and has been technically in default since last March? And why continue to back a system which rolls in the tanks as soon as reform takes on an unpalatable hue?

The interim answer must be composed partly of moral obligation, distasteful though that may be to hard-nosed bankers, and partly of self-interest. Western banks and governments have loaned \$27,000m on relatively favourable terms to build up Poland's industrial and technological base in order that the consequent economic expansion would service the loans and add a profit. Although they might be loath to admit it, the banks have been

investing as much in Poland's planning apparatus as much as in financing Western industrialists and technicians.

They should not be tempted to turn off the tap at a point when the planners and reformers are fighting to determine the course of the Polish nation.

Also, it is in the banks' own interest to persist with Poland despite the undoubted strains on their hard-earned provisions. Unlike an individual or corporate entity, Poland will remain extant at the end of the day.

True, the Poles should have approached the 19-bank rescheduling committee last week about the \$350m loan, instead of telegraphing 23 banks individually. But that is a quibble. Once contact is established, the committee representing the 460 Western banks should adopt the preferred option of the Europeans, led by the German banks.

This option would entail rolling over the \$350m in interest due to be repaid before the end of this year, perhaps for six months. By then the political and economic situation in Poland should have been clarified and the way open for Poland to sign last April's agreement to repay the \$2,400m due in 1981, over the next seven years.

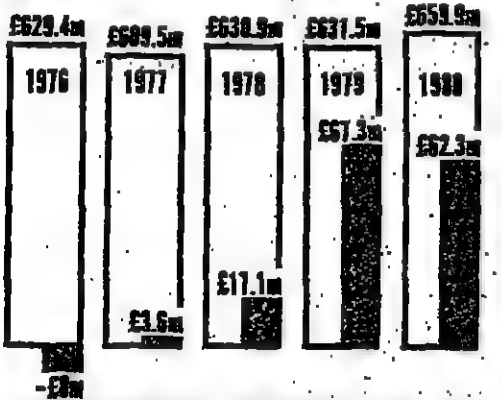
Burmah's questionable strategy

Burmah has been in the casualty ward for so long that its shares have at best been considered an outright speculation on chairman Sir Alastair Down's ability to pull the group back from the financial abyss. In that goal, no-one should have any cause to be disappointed. With the central task of remedying the over expansion and appalling mistakes in the tanker market during the early 1970's, which took Burmah to the brink of ruin in that fateful January of 1975 when our whole financial fabric seemed to be in tatters as well, judging by the depths to which the stockmarket had sunk, Sir Alastair has shown Houdini-like qualities in extricating Burmah from its charter and other shipping commitments.

So much effort has had to be put in this struggle that there has been much less conviction that Burmah had been building solid enough foundations to move forward in the 1980's. More recently, however, a number of stockbrokers have been putting Burmah on

BURMAH'S ROAD BACK

pre-tax profit/loss capital employed



their buying lists for good investment reasons. Impressed by the way Burmah has tackled its past problems, analysts have liked the new more aggressive approach the group has been taking and the signs that a positive corporate development plan is now on the stocks. In addition to that the cyclical recovery prospects in shipping in particular and the other industrial interests are expected to put a much better gloss on the profit and loss account next year. With all that, the bid rumours, which have lapped round the group for at least three years, are in the share price for nothing, so the argument goes.

At the end of the day however, oil and gas production still dominates Burmah's fortunes contributing three-quarters of operating profits last year with the shipping, automotive and industrial interests only the icing on the cake even when they are going well. With the all-important Thistle contribution now starting to decline and bearing such a high rate of tax that the first half tax charge was over 70 per

cent), Burmah has precious little on the horizon to fill this earnings gap in the years ahead outside of its exploration effort in the North Sea after the seventh round and Gabon.

The decision then to launch a £78m takeover for Croda International last Friday as the first major expansionary move since the dark days of 1975, is unlikely to convince the sceptics that Burmah is building a better future. True the group has never been a traditionally integrated oil concern, but the Croda move will give it an increasingly conglomerate complexion, which those with longer memories will recall was the way management talked in the early 1970's. In recent months, the group has made it clear that this is how it sees its future having announced last summer that it was keen to expand the speciality chemicals side and put some of its other industrial interests into an investment division.

But if Burmah has this sort of money to play with, shareholders will have to be convinced that buying into the chemical industry, with its poor growth prospects even in the less vulnerable speciality area where Croda has made its mark and the lack of the contra-cyclical profits which Burmah urgently needs, justifies the deterioration in the already far from strong balance sheet ratios.

While the strategy of the deal then looks at best questionable, there are certain technical reasons why Burmah may have gone down this avenue. Most important looks to be the fact that it urgently needs UK earnings against which to set the £65m losses associated with the Ellesmere refinery closure. This means that, as with any improvement in the Commercial divisions, Croda's profits will come straight through at the bottom line.

The danger in this is that Burmah may be tempted to pay too high a price for Croda, particularly as Croda should be able to forecast a useful profit recovery this year to £9m and perhaps double last year's £7.4m in 1982. It is scarcely surprising that Croda's shareholders may be more loyal than usual, since despite the disappointing progress since 1973 the group has always had a liberal dividend policy — it was after all Croda that drove a coach and horses through dividend restraint with its deep-discounted one-for-one rights issue six years ago.

With a strong asset base of 80p on historical and 120p on current costs, it looks as though Burmah may have to pay closer to 85p than the 70p it is currently offering. But the impression remains that the Burmah board would be better off spending its money elsewhere, and Burmah shareholders should worry that the company sells on an oil company rating when it is fast changing into something altogether less easy to understand and so less attractive in stockmarket terms.

Recent productivity deals could give the UK an edge over competitors. David Felton reports

A leaner and fitter industry?

There could be industrial action in the new year on the railways and at Ford over productivity improvements. A lot more of this kind of argument is likely to be heard in other sectors of industry as companies line up for the awaited economic upturn.

Many companies have taken the opportunity afforded by the recession to shed labour and win productivity changes from workers who are fearful of joining the lengthening unemployment queues. Few of those involved would like to predict whether the productivity gains now being made will prove to be long-lasting, but for the first time in many years there is general agreement that recent productivity deals are genuine and should make industry more efficient.

In the late seventies the various stages of the "social contract" that allowed self-financing pay increases above the 10 per cent and 5 per cent limits led to many deals being struck which were thinly-disguised mechanisms for boosting pay packets without any real productivity gains.

Managements are now looking to their workforces and the trade unions for changes in working practices, more efficient use of plant and equipment and removal of some demarcation lines while unions are seeking to protect jobs by arguing for the introduction of shorter working time.

Some managers are hesitant to accept that there is now the "new sense of realism" among the country's workforce which has been detected by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, but they agree that at plant level unions are now more receptive to productivity demands.

Support for that view came last week in the Bank of England's *Quarterly Bulletin* which showed that between July and September productivity in manufacturing industry was 5 per cent better than the average in 1979 and 6 per cent better than in the final three months of last year.

On the other hand an article in the December issue of *Brokers' Simon & Coates* economic analysis suggests that productivity improvements over the past two years had been very much in line with normal behaviour to be expected in a recession.

The article argues that if the present level of labour "shake out" continued there would be a permanent gain to productivity of about 7½ per cent, but the labour reduction would be reversing the economic upturn. Should that happen to the extent it did in 1976-79 period, when 250,000 were brought into manufacturing industry, the

Organisation (No. of employees affected)	Pay increase	Productivity element
British Rail 145,000	8% from April 3% from Jan '82	Efficiency programme (rostering, manning, demarcations). Talks on 3 issues have been completed Oct 31, remaining 2 subjects by Jan '82.
British Steel 110,000	Pay freeze until July then 7%	Loss of 22,000 jobs. Local negotiations on flexibility and breakdown of some demarcations.
BL Cars 55,000	3.8%	Guaranteed £3.75 pw bonus; joint review of incentive scheme; consolidation of bonus supplement to be discussed.
Perkins Engines (P'boro) 6,000	Not linked to productivity	870 voluntary redundancies; changes in working practices; commitment to "fair day's work".
Rolls-Royce Motors (Crewe) 4,010	4.5% with at least 4% extra from productivity	Reduced overtime working; standardised test breaks; more realistic base factor for productivity payments.
BP Oil (Marketing) tanker drivers, depot staff 2,000	£18 pw increase in basic rate	Reduction of 225 jobs; changes in manning, union agreement to 2.5% improvement in terminal performance.
Holset Engineering Halifax and Huddersfield 1,000	10%	Improvements in working flexibility; 2 hrs reduction in working week.
Simon-Rosewood, Hull 400	8.7%	Increase to maximum payments under incentive scheme.

Source: *Industry Data Services* fortnightly report.

so-called labour "shake-in" would be sufficient to eliminate the productivity gains made during the recession.

A major factor in changes introduced in the engineering industry has been the advent of the 39-hour week which was implemented last month. It has caused friction in some sectors, notably BL Cars and in other companies such as Rolls-Royce's aero-space operations, as management chose different means of implementation, but many companies have now been forced to look closely at their shift patterns and some have introduced three 12-hour shifts or 4½-day working.

Closer examination of shift working has led companies to look at other areas where working practices can be rationalized and it is no coincidence that many of the productivity deals being done at the moment are in the engineering industry.

A key union in that area is the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, led by Terry Duffy who is an unashamed "productivity man". He is a firm believer in seeking ways to enhance productivity and improve wages and conditions through reduced working

Mr Duffy, who presided over the crippling series of one and two-day strikes in the engineering industry in

1979 — "the only strike I have ever led" — which brought about the breakthrough to the 39-hour week, says the unions now have the courage and honesty to admit their share of the blame for disputes in the past which have hindered production.

But he warns that union readiness to agree productivity improvements with managements could be jeopardized by government "gloating" at the loss of union power through the recession and labour legislation.

Not all unions share Mr Duffy's enthusiasm for productivity deals believing that all too often they involve selling jobs.

But if the present climate has thrown the unions into uncharted waters, it has also put extra responsibilities on company managements which have had to rethink their strategies and look again at their own efficiency.

Mr Bob Ramsey, the president of the Institute of Personnel Management and for more than a decade at Ford, doubts whether some managements have the organization of the ability to "win the hearts and minds" of the workforce over to the need for higher productivity.

He believes that in any attempt to ditch long-standing working practices and attitudes there must be

detailed consultation with workers and their trade unions.

"The workforce had got to know the company's economic position in depth so that they should be able to see what is coming, when pay bargaining starts."

The Confederation of British Industry earlier this month published a survey which showed that while there was only slow progress being made in the area of employee involvement, those companies which did have wide consultations with workers were enthusiastic about the returns, which included reader acceptance of the introduction of new technology and a more realistic approach to the company's economic difficulties.

Mr Ramsey says that it is important to differentiate between the kinds of productivity improvements workers would accept. An obvious effect of shedding labour is that output per man increases, as in the case of British Steel where the corporation says that the members of man hours required to produce a tonne of liquid steel will have fallen by the end of the year to 8.5 which compared with 13.6 in 1979.

But a more important effect of productivity agreements, Mr Ramsey believes, should be the better utilization of plant and equipment

and of the time a worker spends in the factory. His model "shopping list" to be presented to workforces would include elimination of lost time through more preventive maintenance; avoiding time wasted on extended tea breaks and late start-up times; abolition of restrictive practices and demarcation lines; and working with more application and enthusiasm.

Managements appear to be adopting two main approaches in their attempts to become more efficient. The first is to offer a small percentage increase in basic rates of pay with the offer of further money to be earned from higher productivity. The second way is to offer nil increases and insist that any improvement in wages is completely funded by greater productivity.

The use of a bonus incentive scheme tied to a base "standard" has achieved some measure of success at BL Cars but it has also engendered some hostility and suspicion from the workforce because in large organizations a complicated bonus system cannot be easily understood or related by workers to their own individual positions.

A key productivity success story has been in the mining industry where the incentive scheme, introduced in 1978, has led to big increases in production and a fall in the absenteeism rate.

But there is strong resistance from some groups of workers to productivity proposals which they see simply as attempts to weaken their position by wiping out time-honoured agreements and practices. A classic case is British Rail where Aslef, the train drivers' union, is reluctant to agree to proposals that would make it possible for members of the rival National Union of Railwaymen to become drivers and could lead to the disappearance of second men in engine cabs.

At Ford the company is trying to get better use of equipment and to blur demarcation lines, particularly in the maintenance field. The unions at Ford are hostile to the efficiency proposals, which are tied to a 7.4 per cent pay offer, because they dramatically change agreements between the company and the unions which have been in existence for many years.

A Ford union negotiator said recently that the company appeared to want "union blood" on the new agreement. In other areas workers have been prepared to sacrifice a little blood in order to keep their job but it will be some time before it will become clear whether that blood was sufficient.

Putting the smiles back into service

Robin Young

Traders and their customers are broadly familiar with the Sale of Goods Act and the idea that if goods are faulty they are entitled to a remedy. Where services are concerned, consumers' rights are far less certain, because there is, as yet, no general Act of Parliament which deals with the provision of services.

The problem is not a hypothetical one. Dissatisfaction with consumer services is deep and widespread. In 1979-80 the Office of Fair Trading recorded 123,759 complaints about services. These were but the tip of an iceberg.

Some service industries are quite notorious for their failures and shortcomings. It is scarcely surprising that home repairs and improvements were the biggest single cause of complaints reported to the OFT, or that car repairs were another big source of grievance. In proportion to the amount of money spent on

them, cleaning and servicing of domestic electrical appliances also showed up particularly badly.

Complaints about services tend to fall into three principal categories — complaints about poor quality of service, the length of time it takes to get anything done, and the amounts that are charged.

Wherever two people are gathered together, it is bound to be a tale of woe to tell about one service or another. Garage servicing, according to the Consumers' Association, presents an appalling picture of incompetence, wastefulness and even dishonesty. Last year *Motoring Which?* put 50 garages to the test (in January 1981) "only two came anywhere near to carrying out a full service in line with the maker's specification."

The consumer cannot even avoid problems by choosing a "reputable" trader. CA found

"virtually no difference" between garages approved by the motoring organisations (AA and RAC) and those which were not, or between those which belonged to trade associations and those which did not.

Yet if reputable companies are sometimes guilty of low standards, the proliferation of "cowboy" contractors who trade as plumbers, electricians, builders and central heating installers is even more alarming.

As for delays, they have become almost synonymous with legal services, but are associated also with gas and electricity boards, and builders.

Often consumers are given no idea of what the price will be for the service they require. They are particu-

larly vulnerable in emergencies. In a 1977 report, the Price Commission found examples of householders who had been charged £26 for a replacement tap washer, or £120 for fitting 20 feet of copper pipe by emergency plumbers (and those were 1974-76 prices). Yet once the work is done consumers rarely challenge the cost of services, feeling they have no alternative but to pay up.

In fact, the consumer is not without rights where service industries are concerned. They are implied in common law, and so must be sought in a labyrinth of case law stretching back centuries.

The motorist claiming that a garage has failed to repair his car properly can find himself relying on old law cases involving farriers shoeing horses. Small wonder, in these circumstances, that aggrieved customers so often feel powerless to complain.

Next month Parliament has the chance to change it all. Mr Fred Willey, MP for Sunderland North, has top place in the ballot for private members' Bills and has adopted a Supply of Goods and Services Bill which would spell out for the first time in a single statute the basic rights consumers have when they obtain a service — what they shall be performed with reasonable skill and care, within reasonable time, and at reasonable cost.

The Bill, backed by all the main consumer organisations, would demystify the

law regarding services, and ensure that the consumer of services is in as strong a position as the purchaser of goods.

It would provide a ready reference in a modern statute to persuade those who supply services to comply with their proper responsibilities. It would extend the provisions of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 to services as well as goods, so that suppliers of services will not be able to wriggle out of their newly defined statutory obligations by using exclusion clauses in the small print of their contracts.

Mr Willey says that the Bill is an attempt to make sense out of nonsense.

"It clears up anomalies and aims to make life easier both for consumers and for reputable traders by making it clear what consumers' rights are."

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14½%
Barclays	14½%
BCCI	14½%
Consolidated Crds.	15 %
C. Hoare & Co	14½%
Lloyds Bank	14½%
Midland Bank	14½%
Nat Westminster	14½%
TSB	14½%
Williams & Glyn's	14½%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000, 13% over 20,000 13½%.

Business Diary Profile: The post of Father Christmas

Copenhagen

That decidedly un-Eskimo-like figure, Santa Claus or Father Christmas, address c/o Greenland, near the North Pole, is busy replying to thousands of letters from children all over the world. Over the Christmas season he will still be receiving thank-you letters from grateful children as late as the summer.

What is little known outside Santa's toyshop is that Santa Claus has been on contract for the past four years to the Copenhagen-based Royal Greenland Trade Department, which operates the Greenland Post Office, as well as being responsible for supplies, production, transport and trade to and from what is the world's biggest island.

Greenland, a Danish colony from 1721 to 1953, achieved home rule under the Danish Crown in 1979. Although devolution is gradually taking place and the vast, largely ice-bound island now has its own parliament, the postal services remain with the Danes.

The Royal Greenland Trade Department initiated the Father Christmas service back in the 1930s but was forced to drop it when the stream of letters received annually topped the 100,000



"Well, what are we going to reply to this one, then? Eight years old, and he wants Brit Ekland for Christmas."

mark. The department simply did not have the resources or the staff to keep up the operation.

For a time the Danish Tourist Board, in cooperation with the local tourist association in Godthaab, Greenland's capital, took over the service, experimenting with a scheme whereby children sent a 5p international reply coupon, (proceeds going to charity) to Santa in anticipation of a gift. A major

decline in the volume of mail received prompted the tourist board to inform the international postal authorities in 1974 that it had suspended the Santa service.

But the world's children undauntedly went on writing in ever increasing numbers to Santa, unperturbed by the fact that the Danish authorities destroyed much of the correspondence, other letters were returned where possible

to hundreds of frustrated senders. In 1977, the present Santa service was put into action. Three authorities are involved in operating Santa today: the Danish Post Office, the Greenland Post Office in Copenhagen and Post Station 3910 at Sondre Stromfjord, on the fringe of Greenland's inland ice, on the bleak west coast of the island facing Canada's Baffin Island.

An international postal agreement ensures that correspondence addressed to Santa Claus, Greenland, is funded by way of Danish postal authorities to the Copenhagen headquarters of the Greenland Post Office, where the chief, gnomes, Post Inspector Gunnar Kasperen, and his staff process it. In cooperation with the Danish Post Office, the Greenland Post Office, with a staff of 45 in the Danish capital — is responsible for the servicing of all mail by air or sea to and from Greenland.

In Copenhagen, special "Christmas" envelopes containing a letter of greeting to Santa Claus, in Danish, German or Danish and a small gift are addressed by Mr Kasperen's loyal staff (between carrying out more important duties) prior to

being air-freighted to Sondre Stromfjord post station, where deputy gnomes, Postmaster Sten Thygesen, and his staff of four apply Greenland's stamps and Christmas stickers to the envelopes, frank them with the local postmark, and send them back by air mail to grateful recipients from all over the world.

For obvious reasons, Kasperen will not divulge what Santa's budget-his gift is this year, warning that the Greenlandic Santa cannot comply with long lists of Christmas presents requests from children all round the globe!

Father Christmas, a British import from the Victorian era, has not the same significance in Scandinavia as in the English-speaking world.

Total sales of Danish Post Office stamps by the post office to philatelists jumped from 18m kroner (£1.3m) to 27m kroner (£2m) from 1980 to 1981 — Greenland issues alone accounting for about 15m kroner.

Santa, like other public sector employees and civil servants, has been hit by government spending cuts, so the gifts he sends from Greenland won't be so lavish this year, but there are nevertheless no plans to stop the service," says Kasperen.

And Santa's gifts have indeed been lavish including in recent years domino sets, a Hans Christian Andersen fairytale booklet (in three languages), attractive Christmas stickers, and last year, a handsome wallet of Danish and Greenlandic stamps worth about a pound.

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M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovel Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation 200%	Company	1st 12 months	2nd 12 months	3rd 12 months	4th 12 months	5th 12 months	6th 12 months	7th 12 months	8th 12 months	9th 12 months	10th 12 months
1,174	ABN 10% CUTS	118	+2	10.0	8.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
3,878	Airbus Group	67	+1	4.7	7.0	10.6	14.7	—	—	—	—
1,100	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	+1	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3	—	—	—	—
12,057	Barclays Bank	197	+4	9.7	4.9	9.6	11.7	—	—	—	—
6,809	Deborah Services	68	—	5.5	6.3	4.4	8.3	—	—	—	—
4,619	Frank Horrell	126	+1	6.4	5.2	11.2	27.0	—	—	—	—
9,390	Frederick Parker	65	+1	1.7	2.6	28.3	—	—	—	—	—
867	George Blair	47	+1	7.3	7.3	7.2	10.9	—	—	—	—
4,061	IPC	30	+1	7.0	7.1	3.1	7.0	—	—	—	—
2,478	Jackson Group	98	—	8.7	7.6	8.3	10.5	—	—	—	—
15,734	James Burroughs	114	+1	31.3	11.9	3.7	9.3	—	—	—	—
2,783	Robert Jenkins	283	—	5.3	9.8	8.3	7.7	—	—	—	—
2,340	Scruttons "A"	54	—	10.7	5.4	5.4	9.3	—	—	—	—
4,076	Tuesday Ltd	16	—	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,778	Twinkl 15% UK	13	—	15.0	20.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,993	Twinkl Holdings	73	+1	2.0	9.7	5.5	9.4	—	—	—	—
4,720	Unifac Holdings	71	—	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.0	—	—	—	—
9,768	Walter Alexander	277	—	13.1	6.2	4.0	8.2	—	—	—	—
4,348	W. S. Yeates	212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Christopher Follett

Edited by Peter Dear

ITV/LONDON

Radio 3

Radio 1

5.00 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 John Dunn.† 2.00 Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton.† 5.45 News. 6.00 David Symonds.† 8.00 Folk on 2.† 9.00 Humphray Lytallton.† 10.00 The Law Game (series). 10.30 Star Sound. 11.05 Brian Matthew.† from midnight 1.00 Truckers' Hour.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1
5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Head.
9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee
Travis. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve
Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 5.30
Newbeat. 7.00 Stay'n' Alive. 8.00
David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel.
12.00 midnight Show.

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Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz Radio 3
Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF
m and VHF 91.9MHz World Service

WESTWARD

As **Thames** except: **Stars** 9.35 am
Sesame Street, 10.35 **Loof Islands**,
 11.00 **News Bulletin**, 11.55-12.00
 Undersea Adventures of Captain
 Nemo, 1.30 pm-1.30 News, 5.00
Newsday Diary, 6.30-6.45, **Twenty**
Years of Westward, 11.15 **Tea**,
 Hollywood: **Rocky Road to Romance**,
 11.45 **Superstar Profile**: **Liza Minelli**,
 11.55 **Tea**, **Journal for Christmas**, 12.15
 Closes down.

ULSTER

As **Thames** except: **Stars** 12.00-12.10
 pm **Cookin'with Ray**, 1.50-1.30 **News**,
 2.00-2.05 **News Bulletin**, 11.15 **Tea**,
 Ulster Landscapes: **Christmas**, 11.15
 11.45 **Bedtime**, Closes down.

SOUTHERN

As **Thames** except: 9.30am **Wild**, **Wild**
 World of Animals 9.55 **Baileys' Bird**
 10.30 **Try True** 10.45 **Young Ramsay**
 11.35-12.00 **Christmas Two-Step**
 1.20pm-1.30 **News** 2.00-2.30
 2.40-3.00 **News Bulletin**, 3.30-
 3.50 **Don't Runt Strokes** 11.10 **Vegas**
 12.05am **Weather** followed by **Get The**
Head With Sister Clementine

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: * STEREO
 * BLACK AND WHITE; @ REPEAT.

ENTERTAINMENTS	ALBERT. S 836 3678. cc 379 5663/4 930 OTS. 1. Gp. Hds 833 3092/834 9602. 771. 3rd Thurs & Sat. Mat. 3.0	COMEDY THEATRE. 8 CC 950 2678 Cp. Hds 839 6061. Mon-Fri 8.0, Sat 8.15. Mat Thurs 3. Sat 5.15. Prices	KINGS HEAD. 226 1916 Tins-Sun Our 7 Show 8. EXTENDED BY POPULAR DEMAND (Sheila Steele)	PALACE. Acc 01-437 6834 cc 839 2608 Credit Cards Helpline 01-430 0124. 1 (Cine) Special Show Rates	BADLER'S WELLS THEATRE SC1 See under Opera & Ballet for JOSEPH & THE AMAZONS	WESTMINSTER cc 501-334 0283. GAVIN AND	Gordon Haymarket. 930 2738/ 2771. THE FRENCH LIAISON ANTH. WOMAN (A.S. Sam. French Exposure House 1st Floor. 156	ESKENAZI LIMITED
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Blizzards, floods and gales—but it's getting better

By a Staff Reporter

Appalling weather marked the start of Christmas week yesterday with blizzards in the north and Scotland, deep drifts blocking roads in mid-Wales, and widespread flooding and power failures in the west of England.

But a spokesman at the London Weather Centre remained optimistic about a thaw over the next few days, with a return of the cold weather later in the week.

The chances of a white Christmas are slim, however. "It certainly would not rain today on a white Christmas in London", a forecaster said last night. The news will encourage William Hill, the bookmakers, who have set odds of 7-4 and face a £50,000 payout if it rains on Christmas Day.

A girl, aged nine, was killed when a brick wall fell on her as she walked home from church. Frances Le Gros died of head and chest injuries after being smothered over in high winds.

Her mother, Mrs Denise Le Gros, aged 27, was taken to hospital with a broken leg after the accident in Notting Hill, London.

Two teenage sisters, missing overnight since their car overturned into the River Kenn in Wiltshire, were also feared dead.

Jacqueline McAuley, aged 16, and her sister Patricia, aged 15, from Ballymore, were travelling with their boyfriends when the car skidded on the icy road and into the

at a lonely North Yorkshire farm near Whitby. She was taken to Whitby Hospital where her condition was stable.

Buxton and Glossop Derbyshire were cut off by drifts; elsewhere in the county people had to be dug out of stranded cars by police working throughout Saturday night.

In Humberdale roads leading into Scarborough and Leeds were blocked, as were roads into Blackpool from Northumbria.

In Cumbria M6 traffic on Shep-Tobey section was reduced to one lane in each direction, but two-lane working was in operation elsewhere with ploughs moving the snow to the side.

The A66 was blocked at Skipton and the police doubted if it would be cleared last night. The Kildwick-Penrith section was a black-out and was cleared in daytime. All roads to and from Alston and Conistone areas were blocked, as was the A52 over Kirkstall pass.

Throughout Lincolnshire roads were blocked by snow drifts and clearance teams were hampered by abandoned cars.

Hundreds of people were left without electricity, as snow brought down conductors in the south of the country.

In Scarborough, 11,000 people were left without power when blizzards caused failures in two main electricity feeders. In other areas they lost their supplies as wind

Church appeals for calm

Confirmation of food shortages was implied by reports that the Soviet Union and other countries had been sending rushing food aid to Poland. Also from the Soviet Union was word that 50,000 tons of rice, of which 10,000 tons would arrive before Christmas, as well as 200 tons of raisins, one million tons of apples and 2,000 tons of mandarin oranges.

In an attempt to lay the blame for shortages elsewhere, the authorities were now trying to whip up traditional Polish anti-semitism, according to some reports, by accusing Jews of hoarding food. One Jewish shopkeeper was turned away with the derisive advice, "No rationations from the rabbi." Farmers were also being blamed for the shortages.

Eye-witness accounts, page 2

Editorial

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